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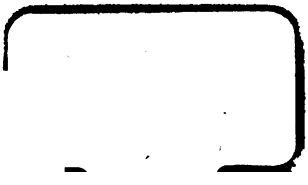

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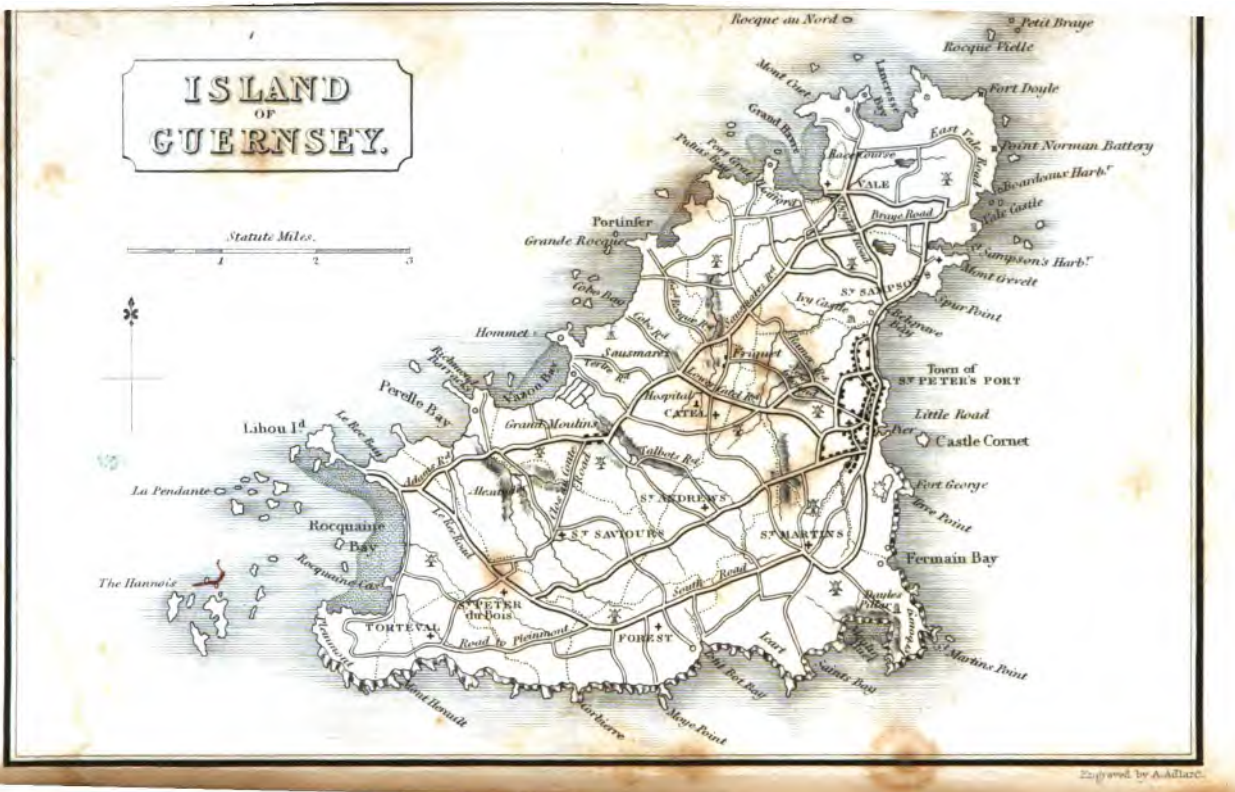
THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.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Mont Cuet
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The Hannois
South Road
ST PETER
du Bois
Doyles Post
FORTEVAL
Road to Pleinmont
FOREST
Martins Point
Pleinmont
Point Hermitt
Icart
Saints Bay
Moye Point
Engraved by A. Adlard.

THE

CHANNEL ISLANDS;

JERSEY, GUERNSEY, ALDERNEY, &c

[THE RESULT OF A TWO YEAR'S RESIDENCE.]

BY

HENRY D. INGLIS,

AUTHOR OF "SPAIN IN 1830," "THE TYROL," &c

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THE

CHANNEL ISLANDS, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Approach; town of St. Peter's-Port; streets and buildings; villas; the fish market, and other markets; prices of provisions; Elizabeth College, and its advantages; the hospital and poor-house; the harbour; castle Cornet.

In this volume, I proceed, in the first place, to speak of Guernsey; and afterwards of those smaller dependencies,—Alderney, Serk, and Herm,—which, together with Jersey, form the Channel Islands.

It is obvious, that in speaking of Guernsey, my observations cannot extend to the same length as those which I have already offered on Jersey;

not because Guernsey is less interesting; nor, because (with the exception of trade) there is less to tell; but because there is, in many respects,—in the aspect of the two islands, in the manners of the country people, in their agriculture, in their climate and productions, in their civil government,—so great a similarity, that after having exhausted all these subjects as regards one of the islands, it would be impossible without repetition, to dwell at the same length, on the other island. With these preliminary observations, I proceed to the subject.

Although Guernsey lies nearer than Jersey, to England,—yet, having resolved to make Jersey my head quarters, during the two years that I purposed devoting to an examination of the Channel Islands, I did not take Guernsey in my way; nor did I commence my visits to it, until I had been nearly a year resident in Jersey.

In approaching Guernsey, the shores of the island do not possess the same attractions as the sister island; being altogether, more sterile, and having less the aspect of fertility. The town of

St. Peter's Port however, is greatly more imposing, from the sea, than the chief town of Jersey. The latter, as the reader has already been told, lies on a plain : the former, covers the side of a hill,—encircles its base, and crowns its ridge; so that it shows itself to the best advantage. Little or nothing of it is lost to the eye; and both in extent, and seeming elegance, the stranger, in approaching the port, would give to it, a decided preference over St. Helier.

Like many more important places than St. Peter's Port, these appearances are deceptive; and all the apparent attractions of the town disappear, when one steps on shore. I should say, that the first impressions of St. Peter's Port, are decidedly unfavourable. We perambulate narrow, steep, and crooked streets, flanked by substantial indeed, but old looking dusky houses; and walk as long as we may, we reach no open space, where we may stop and look about us. I speak at present of the town only, not of the environs, which are as delightful, as that which they environ, is execrable. The advantage which St. Helier possesses

over St. Peter's Port is this,—that the houses of the gentry are thrown into rows and streets, and form a part of the town; whereas, the better houses in Guernsey, are not within the town; but are detached residences: and herein consist the great beauty of the environs of St. Peter's Port, which just as far exceed the expectations of the traveller, as the town falls below them.

Walk from St. Peter's Port in what direction you may,—indications of wealth and refinement united, are every where apparent. I do not mean to pass any enconium on the architectural beauty of the Guernsey villas; which are, with few exceptions, constructed without much regard to architectural taste; but they are uniformly respectable in appearance: there is nothing pert, and cit-like, about them: they are generally something beyond boxes; and are evidently the dwellings of persons who possess at least, a competency.

Nor is it the houses alone, that arrest one, and lead to those conclusions. With scarcely an exception, every detached house has some plea-

sure ground,—not merely a round plot, with its circular gravel walk, its little labyrinth of evergreens, and its border of box, or daisies; but a respectable sized inclosure,—a miniature lawn,—always in excellent order,—big enough for a promenade,—and very frequently, with a circular carriage road. As we get farther from the town, these villas become larger,—some of them assuming the appearance of English country seats; and evidently, the residences of persons of some considerable fortune.

The environs of St. Peter's Port have nothing of a foreign aspect about them; they are decidedly English; and greatly resemble the outskirts of some of the English cathedral cities. It is evident at a glance, that the houses have not been put down as a speculation for letting, wherever a man chanced to have a few square yards of land; but that the sites have been selected; and that the proprietor, or architect, has not been compelled to cut his coat according to his cloth: he has evidently had a few yards to spare.—But I have been led insensibly from the town, to its environs; and so

reserving for another chapter, some more detailed account of the latter, I return to Peter's Port, to speak of all that is deserving of notice in it.

The town of St. Peter's Port, contains, like every other town, better and worse quarters; but until we get to the outskirts, bad is the best. I have no intention of giving any detailed description of the town; but there are some of its public institutions, and a few of its buildings, deserving of particular notice, and of high commendation. It is probable, that if a stranger were to ask a Guernseyman, what he ought especially to see,—the answer might be our "fish-market;" and it is unquestionably true, that the fish-market of Guernsey, is not only an object worthy of being seen, but whether in its conveniences and the abundance of its supplies, is not excelled, if indeed equalled, by any metropolitan market of Europe.

One entering the Guernsey fish-market on a Saturday morning, at a good fish season, would set down the people of Guernsey, as a fish-eating people; for one finds himself in a spacious arcade, no less than a hundred and ninety feet in

length, and broad, and lofty in proportion, and sees the double row of marble slabs, which extend the whole length of the building, covered with fish: and it is probable, that if we visit the market on the afternoon of the same day, the immense display of the morning, will have dwindled into a few solitary whitings, and shell fish, scattered here and there. The consumption, therefore, seems quite equal to the supply; but indeed, an abundant supply, and cheap prices, necessarily create consumers. This building is entirely new; the interior is light and airy; the slabs,—chiefly of variegated marble.—are each supplied with abundance of fresh water; and the whole arrangements, as well as the variety, abundance, and excellence of the fish displayed, at once impress the stranger with high, and I believe, just notions of the public spiritedness of a people, who have taken so much pains to provide a fit receptacle for one single article of human sustenance. The fish generally found in the Guernsey market, are nearly the same as those which I have enumerated when speaking of Jersey, with some kinds of shell

fish superadded; but the difference consists in the abundance of the supply,—especially of the finer sorts of fish,—turbot, cod, mullet, and bass. The price varies much with the season; but at tolerably plentiful times, the following prices are not much wide of the truth. Red mullet from 4d. to 6d. a piece; grey mullet 3d. to 5d.; john dorey 5d. to 7d.; plaice 1s. to 2s.; brill 2s. to 3s.; soles 2s. to 3s. per pair; turbot 10d. to 1s. per lb.

The other markets adjoin the fish market; but these are not so remarkable. They are however, commodious, and suitable for the purpose. Prices are generally higher in this island than in Jersey: indeed, I do not think they differ materially from London prices. Beef sells at from 7d. to 8d.; mutton 8d. to 9d.; veal 7d. to 8d.; pork 4½d. to 5d. The poultry consumed in Guernsey is almost wholly French, very little country produce being brought to market. Turkeys sell at from 3s. to 4s.: fowls 2s. 6d. to 3s. per couple; geese 2s. 6d.; Guernsey eggs 8d. to 1s. per doz.; French eggs 5d. to 6d. per doz.

I do not consider the supply of fruit and veget-

ables at all on a par with the Jersey market: and the prices, I found somewhat higher. In the neighbourhood of the market are also a public library; and opposite to it, the assembly rooms. But to these, I shall afterwards have occasion to return when I speak of society,—its tastes, and usages.

The only two institutions which I think of sufficient importance to warrant me in entering into details, are Elizabeth College; and the public hospital. With these, I must occupy a few pages, because both are institutions, which confer respectability on the island; and which, in their objects, as well as their management, deserve to be spoken of in terms of the highest commendation.

Elizabeth College, is not only a noble institution, but an attractive object. It is situated on an elevation, behind the town, with a spacious area around it, ornamentally laid out. The building itself, is decidedly handsome; and from its extent alone, would command attention. Its architecture is mixed; as a whole, regular,—and

yet, with a monastic air about it: and the interior is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was intended.

This seminary of education owes its origin to letters patent of queen Elizabeth, by which, in the year 1563, eighty quarters of wheat rent were assigned for the endowment of a school. From the date of its foundation, up to its erection into a college, this institution existsd in little more than in name; but to the honour of the States of Guernsey, means were adopted in the year 1824, to place this establishment on a more efficient footing. This has accordingly been done . and Elizabeth College, under its present management, offers advantages for the instruction of youth, not perhaps to be found in any public seminary elsewhere. This, I admit, is an assertion, that needs to be supported; but I think proofs of its truth, are not difficult to be found. I ground its superior advantages on the wide circle of knowledge which its plan embraces, and which appears to be better fitted for the purposes of life, than the systems pursued in the great seminaries of Eng-

land, or even in the exclusive universities. A deep knowledge of Latin prosody, and Greek accentuation, goes but a very little way in the world now-a-days; nor even, will the mathematical knowledge of a senior wrangler, be much more than the passport to a fellowship. In fact, the education that may have suited the eighteenth century, cannot be well adapted to the nineteenth.

The college education of this establishment, includes Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Divinity, History, Geography, French and English Literature, Mathematics and Arithmetic. Instruction in these branches of education is secured by the college fee of £12 per annum. But besides these, other useful branches of education are taught by approved masters within the college, to those who desire more than the regular college education. These branches are, Drawing and Surveying, the Spanish, Italian, and German languages, Music, Fencing, and Drilling.

It will be conceded, I think, that the plan of education, is sufficiently extensive; and the only question therefore is, whether those to whom the

duties of instruction are confided, are worthy of the trust. That they are so, I think we have the strongest possible guarantees. The direction of the establishment is vested in individuals who are either directors, in virtue of their holding the highest offices in the island,—or are selected from among the inhabitants, by the lieutenant-governor or by the States, and as all of the individuals in the management, are interested in the prosperity of the island, there is every guarantee for a strict impartiality, and wise selection, in the appointment of those to whom the duties of the establishment are confided. I will mention the names of the four principal masters. The Rev. William Lewis Davies, M.A., late fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, principal of the college. The Rev. Charles Joseph Belin, B.A., late fellow of New College, Oxford, and B. ès L., of the University of Paris, vice-principal. The Rev. Daniel Dobrée. M.A., of Pembroke College, Oxford, first classical master. The Rev. Charles Tayler, B.A., of Downing College, Oxford, master of the mathematical school. I believe too,

I may say truly, that the masters of the other branches, and especially of the modern languages, —that indispensable branch of education,—are all individuals of the most undisputed competency, and besides the guarantees I have mentioned we have this additional one,—that there is a public examination at midsummer, conducted by two masters of arts of the university of Oxford, selected for that purpose, by the heads of Exeter, Jesus, and Pembroke Colleges.

As illustrative of the system pursued, I will here introduce an extract from the address of the vice-principal. "The course of education, beginning with the rudiments of grammar, advances to the highest classics studied in English public schools. Next to divinity (in which is included, if desired, the study of the Hebrew language), the classics and mathematics are considered the most important branch of the system, as qualifying more immediately for the universities; but the distribution of the school hours is so arranged, that every scholar may, without interfering with the above pursuits, acquire an adequate knowledge

of Commercial Arithmetic, and such proficiency in the French language as will fit him for future situations in active life, independently of the learned professions. The opportunity of combining with these studies those of other modern languages, military and civil architecture, drawing and surveying, affords many additional advantages, particularly if a scholar should afterwards be removed to either of the royal academies at Woolwich or Portsmouth, or to one of the colleges at Sandhurst, Hayleybury, or Addiscombe. The system is so modified as fairly to meet the exigencies of individual cases.

There are several exhibitions not requiring entrance at any university; besides medals and prizes for general proficiency, composition, and good conduct. There is a public examination immediately before the midsummer vacation, conducted by two masters of arts of the university of Oxford, elected for that purpose by the heads of Exeter, Jesus, and Pembroke Colleges, Oxford.

But I must not dismiss the subject, without

adverting to the economy of an education in Elizabeth College. The whole of the college dues amount, as I have already said, to only £12; and the extra branches which I have enumerated, are, most of them, £22 per quarter. For pupils from England, I can scarcely conceive a more advantageous union of education and economy, than may be found in Elizabeth College. Board and tuition with the principal of the college, is £60 per annum, including the £12 of college dues; with the vice-principal £50; and with the mathematical master £50. Contrast the advantages offered by an institution of this nature, and its many guarantees, with those comparatively irresponsible and unguaranteed "establishments," —which too often deserve to be considered but as trading speculations.

And yet, singular enough it is, that this responsible and guaranteed institution, should enjoy but a very moderate share of popularity in Guernsey. The fact however may be accounted for without difficulty. The inhabitants have too long been accustomed to the loose system of the public

"seminaries," to be reconciled to the strict impartiality which obtains in Elizabeth College,—where the patronage, or perhaps even the position in society, of a relative, or parent, fails to produce its effect. At no distant period however, Elizabeth College must overcome opposition in Guernsey; and be universally acknowledged to be, what it certainly is, an institution admirably fitted for the wants of the age.

I make no apology for the length of these details. The existence even, of Elizabeth College, Guernsey, is scarcely known in England; and in publishing the merits of this institution, I think I perform only an act of justice to the college; while at the same time, I do a good service to those at a distance, who may benefit by the advantages which it offers.

There is another institution in Guernsey, which deserves notice,—the hospital.

This establishment, so creditable to Guernsey, and standing out so prominently in relief, by the side of the ill-regulated public establishments of the sister island, has been in operation since the

year 1743. The establishment is improperly named an hospital. It is more; it is a poor-house,—a refuge for the destitute,—a work-house,—and, for the young, a seminary for instruction.

The system pursued in this establishment, is in accordance with the most approved systems of modern times. The expenses of the institution, are partly defrayed by the labour of those residing in it; all the in-door work is performed by the inmates; and the most perfect regularity, order, and cleanliness, pervade every part of the establishment. There are schools for both the boys and girls, in which an education is received, suited to the circumstances in which the individuals may afterwards be placed. Attached to the institution, there is also a chapel, to the duties of which, a chaplain is appointed with a salary of £30. The medical department also, is under the very best and most liberal regulations. The average number of inmates for the year 1832, was 79 men, 130 women, 55 boys and 39 girls, and the expense of housekeeping during the same

year, was £2217 9s. 7d., an expenditure that pretty clearly demonstrates the liberal system pursued towards the inmates of the establishment: and when we add to this sum, upwards of £1000 more, for improvements, and occasional expenses, we shall have no contemptible specimen of the public spirit and humanity of the people of Guernsey. The following ten items of house expenditure indicate the scale of comfort which prevails. 14,526 lbs. of beef; 4084 lbs. of bacon and pork; 471 quarters of wheat; 115½ hhd. of beer; 3964 lbs. of butter; 1400 faggots; 2562 gallons of milk; 1696 bushels of potatoes; 270 lbs. of tea; and 991 lbs. of sugar. These are minute, and to some, may appear trifling details; but I question if a traveller can be too minute, in all that regards the social condition of a people.

The harbour of St. Peter's Port, deserves no particular mention. It is small; but large enough, I believe, for the trade, which is very unimportant compared with that of Jersey. There has been some talk of constructing a new harbour, accessible, from the depth of water, at all times; but

it is generally thought, that the undertaking would not repay the cost. There is no doubt, however, that during the violent storms from the south-west, which so often sweep into the channel, carrying with them a tremendous sea from the south atlantic, that the north coast of Guernsey affords a convenient shelter; and that a safe and commodious harbour accessible at all times, would attract many vessels. Even now, as many as seventy sail of French vessels, bound chiefly from the southern ports with cargoes of wine, have been seen at one time, availing themselves of the shelter afforded by the Guernsey coast.

I have already mentioned Castle Cornet, as a striking object in approaching the island. Like Elizabeth Castle, Jersey, it is built on a rock, at a distance of somewhat less than half a mile from the shore; but is not, like Elizabeth Castle, accessible at low water. It is not so picturesque an object as Elizabeth Castle; because it is not, like the latter, flanked by other rocks than that upon which it is built: and the folly of white-

washing part of it, has greatly injured its naturally venerable appearance. It is difficult to distinguish between Elizabeth Castle, and the rock upon which it is built; but the renovators of Castle Cornet have taken care to make the line distinct enough.

I have nothing more to say of the town of St. Peter's Port; and shall now carry the reader into the country.

CHAPTER II.

The environs of St. Peter's Port; gardens and Floriculture.

ALTHOUGH I have already incidentally spoken of the immediate environs of St. Peter's Port; I have not yet done sufficient justice to them. Around St. Helier, Jersey, nature has done more than art: around St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, their claims are at least equal. The country is less rich, less diversified: but it is everywhere made most of. The villas and cottage residences are not perhaps so numerous; but they are larger, better, and more in repair; and look like the houses of people, who, living in the island, must have a house, rather than of persons who have come to the island in search of a house. The wood is not so abundant; but it is better disposed: and the elevation of the environs,

of St. Peter's Port, is the means of affording finer sea views than are generally to be found in the environs of St. Helier, Jersey.

There is an area in the neighbourhood of the town, called the New Ground,—a fine level grass field, surrounded by double rows of trees, which form almost as fine an arcade as the Champs Elysées. This was intended as a promenade for the inhabitants, who do not however choose to promenade there; but in truly English taste, prefer the dusty roads. There is no doubt however, that while in foreign countries, the chief object of the promenade, is to see and be seen,—in England, and among English people, another object is superadded,—that of health and exercise. To take a walk, in the English sense, is a thing unknown in most parts of the Continent; but as this is really the intention of an Englishwoman, when she puts on her bonnet and shawl, the preference of the road over the more restricted promenade, is sufficiently accounted for. But, to return to the New Ground, Guernsey,—although the traveller need not go there to see the

inhabitants, he ought certainly to spend half an hour there some fine sunny summer's evening, for the sake of the view to be enjoyed from it. A sea view is most beautiful, when it is not all sea; and in this respect, Guernsey has the advantage of Jersey; for the islands of Serk, Herm, and Jethou, which are comprehended in all the views from the neighbourhood of the town, add great variety and interest to the prospect.

The beauty not only of the immediate, but of the remoter environs of St. Peter's Port, is greatly enhanced by the numerous gardens, and the passion for flowers, which is everywhere prevalent amongst all classes in Guernsey. The superiority of Guernsey over Jersey, in the greater excellence of its gardens, and the more successful, and more universal cultivation of flowers, does not certainly depend upon any superiority of soil or climate,—the latter of which indeed, is in favour of Jersey; but is to be attributed solely, to greater pains taken in cultivation. It is certain however, that Guernsey is justly celebrated for its floriculture. It is not only in the larger

gardens,—to which a stranger is generally conducted, as being among the lions of Guernsey,—that one is charmed with the beauty and variety of flowers, but in the little plots of garden ground, attached to the smaller country houses and even cottages. Noble hydrangeers,—fine varieties of the pink, and healthy bosly geraniums, all reared in the open air, overtop the little walls, or grace the doorway.

I will enumerate a few of the flowers and shrubs which are successfully reared in Guernsey; and for this enumeration I am chiefly indebted to the observations of Dr. MacCulloch, communicated in a paper addressed to the Caledonian Horticultural Society. Dr. M. sets out with saying, "that variety and the splendour of the productions of Guernsey give a character to its horticulture which is very impressive to an English visiter, and which excites surprise, when compared with the very slight advantages of climate, which this island from its geographical difference of position, might be supposed to possess."

The first flower which I shall notice, is the

amaryllis, more commonly known, at least in the Channel Islands, by the name of the Guernsey lily. This beautiful plant is cultivated in Jersey, as well as in Guernsey; but it is in Guernsey that by far the finest specimens are seen. This flower is a native of Japan, "a country," says Dr. Maculloch, "possessing such variety of climate, that it might well afford plants suited to any latitude." The same gentleman also says, "In Guernsey, every gardener, and almost every petty farmer who has a bit of garden ground, appropriates a patch to this favoured root; and the few hundreds of flowers which are brought to England in the season, or which are kept for ornament in the island, are the produce of thousands of roots. The average rate of flowering is about 15 or 18 in a hundred." The same frosts that have n effect on the hardy geraniums, injure the roots of the Guernsey lily.

The magnolia grandiflora, is another plant which is very successfully cultivated in Guernsey, —flowering both regularly and luxuriantly; but which, excepting in parts of Cornwall, cannot

generally be depended upon in England. To this, may be added, the hydrangea hortensis, the fuchsia coccinea, the geranium zonule, the inquinaus radule glutinosum,—all of which, in the luxuriance of their summer vegetation, bear testimony alike, to the excellence of the climate, and the taste of the inhabitants. I have seen splendid specimens of the fuchsia in the Guernsey gardens,—some of them, I am certain, from six to eight feet high, and ten or twelve in circumference, and covered over with their beautiful pendent blossoms, many of them an inch and a half long. I had in my own garden in Jersey, a fuchsia not much inferior to these in size, which was covered with flowers so late as the month of November.

One of the most remarkably successful plants in these islands, and especially in Guernsey, owing to the superior pains bestowed in its cultivation, is the verbena triphylla: I have seen it almost a tree in Guernsey, reaching to nearly twenty feet in height, and reminding me of the gardens of the Alcazar, at Seville, where I saw

it for the first time in perfection. I had also five healthy specimens of this plant in my garden in Jersey, but not at all equal to those I have seen in Guernsey. Dr. MacCulloch says of this beautiful shrub: "Its growth is indeed so luxuriant, that it is necessary to keep it from becoming troublesome, by perpetual cutting; fresh shoots fourteen feet in length, resembling those of the osier willow being annually produced."

Many other rare and beautiful plants which require artificial heat in England, grow in Guernsey out of doors: among others, the celtis macrantha,—and both varieties of camellia japonica, which sometimes attains the height of twenty feet. I noticed on the 24th November last, a camellia japonica, nineteen feet in height, with a spread of thirteen feet, and with a hundred and fifty full blown flowers on it, besides innumerable buds. Let me add to the list some species of the olia; many species of the cistus, the crispifolius, and ormosus, among others; the yucca or yoicca aloifolia; the dracocephalium canadriense; the jasminum azoricum; the nerium oleander—the

pride of more southern climes; the clethra arborea; the daphne odorata; the mumulus glutinosus; the correa alba; the melaleuca hypericifolia, gorteria regeus; many of the proteas species, and a number of the genera ixia and erica,—and to this captivating enumeration may be added the myrtle, which, indeed, I have already celebrated, in speaking of Jersey, and which defies the utmost severity of winter in either of the islands.

Dr. MacCulloch says, "Even the green-house cultivation is influenced by the climate. It is well known, that the heliotropium peruvianum, in England, is limited in its growth, becoming woody and feeble, after it has attained a certain age. In Guernsey, on the contrary, if planted in the bed of earth in the house, although no artificial heat be applied, it soon fills the whole space, running over the bed, and striking fresh roots from its branches, as it advances."

Aloes have also been known to thrive well, and to perfect their blossoms in Guernsey, without any particular care being taken in their cultivation.

It may easily be believed from what has been said, that an hour spent in one of the finer gardens of Guernsey is no inconsiderable enjoyment; for it is not only the painted beauties that attract the eye,—the delicate tints of the amaryllis,—the graceful oleander,—the blushing fuchsia,—the frail and lovely varieties of cistus; but the scent also, that rises from the myrtles, the verbena, the daphne, and the heliotrope. Nor is the attraction of the garden confined to these rarer flowers. The same passion that rears exotic, fosters also, the more common flower; and nowhere accordingly have I seen, in so much perfection, the varieties of the carnation, the dahlia, the tulip, the hyacinth, and the many other beautiful and sweet-smelling flowers, that in greater or less perfection are found in the English garden.

Dr. MacCulloch, in the paper to which I have alluded, extolls also, the fruits of Guernsey. I believe however, Jersey has the advantage of Guernsey in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. The fact is, nothing that is likely to be pecuniarly advantageous, is apt to be overlooked

in Jersey; and this, coupled with a superior climate, cannot fail in its effects. There are better figs, and more of them in Guernsey, than in Jersey; but the reason is, that the fruit is not cultivated in Jersey. The superiority of Jersey, is seen in the cultivation of the melon, some species of which, are raised without glass in Guernsey; but the romana, which requires greater heat, is not so successful there, as in Jersey. Well-sized orange trees growing in the open air are seen in Guernsey; but to produce tolerable fruit, they require the shelter of a wall; and in winter, the protection of mats. But indeed, if the success of the orange, and of many other fruits and flowers of southern latitudes, depends more upon the absence of winter cold, than the presence of great summer heat, there would be no reason why these should not be successful in the Channel Islands. During the two winters that I passed in them, there was nothing that in England would be called winter weather. I have experienced much more cold, and seen the thermometer much lower for days together, in the most southern parts of

France, and even in the south-east of Spain, than I have ever felt or seen it in Jersey.

Dr. MacCulloch states, as a fact of some importance, the naturalization in Guernsey, of the canna indica, a native of very warm climates; and which has become so thoroughly habituated to the climate, as to prove a weed in the gardens which it has occupied; and upon this, he makes the following sensible remarks: "Abundant experience," says the doctor, "has shown, that the propagation of a plant, by cuttings, or offsets, has little or no effect in changing its constitution; and the instance above cited equally shows, that the seed will produce a hardier progeny, which, in time, may possibly be habituated to bear all the range of temperature which the globe affords. To carry this speculation, however, into practice, it is evident, that in most cases, the attempt will be unavailing, if the transition is violent. Yet it is probable, that in the immense number of untried plants, many might be found, which, like the canna indica, would even bear a change as great as that now mentioned. But to pursue this

system of naturalization with any great hope of success, it would be necessary that the transition should be more gradual, and that the transplantation should be carried from a hot climate through some intermediate one, to our own less genial shores. The peculiarity of the climate of Guernsey would afford us ground to hope, that it possesses many of the requisite properties; and that it would form a step required in this experiment. These considerations should stimulate us to make trials, which, in their results, may possibly prove useful, as well as ornamental. Many of the fruits which are now too tender to bear our climate, might thus be made to produce seeds, which should give us products equal in goodness to the original, and of a hardier character. It is not unlikely, for example, that a variety of melon from seeds produced in Guernsey, might be taught to grow without the aid of glass, in England. Perhaps even, the caper, or the orange, might be naturalized through the same medium. That process which has naturalized the canna indica, might go far to put us in possession of many

other desirable objects, at least in cases when, like the melon, the generations can be rapidly repeated, and when the produce goes hand in hand with each successive generation. Thus, possibly even the pine of Norfolk Island might become a British tree, although many years' toil would be requisite to attain the end."

I cannot introduce better than at the conclusion of this chapter, in which I have been speaking of the natural productions which are matured in the open air, in Guernsey, a short sketch of the climate of the island, with its effect on human health and life,—the data for which have been furnished to me by my esteemed friend, Mr. S. E. Hoskins, whose high and acknowledged attainments, and extensive medical practice, have well qualified him for the performance of this act of kindness.

"The climate of Guernsey bears a great affinity to that of the south-west coast of England, Dr. Clark considers it as intermediate between that, and the western parts of France. There is no doubt however, that it is milder than the latter

in winter, and considerably warmer than the southern coast of Devonshire, at all seasons, without however being more humid,—a character which it has rather undeservedly acquired. The atmosphere is not so confined, nor has it the "aguish disposition" of Hastings—and whilst the climate is mild and quite as salubrious as that of the Isle of Wight, the island is preferable to under cliff, on account of the superior accommodations obtainable for invalids. The temperature is subject to frequent, but not extensive, variations; the thermometer seldom rises above 80 degrees of Farenheit, seldom falls as low as 37 degrees, and never remains long stationary, at the freezing point. Taking one year with another, the mean annual temperature may be quoted at 3 degrees lower than that of Jersey.

The heat of summer is tempered by a gentle sea breeze, and like all other maritime situations, the cold of winter is mitigated by caloric imparted to the atmosphere from the surrounding ocean. Frosts are neither severe nor durable,—indeed whole winters often pass away without a single

face of snow. The luxuriance of the various exotics which flourish unguarded, at all seasons in the open air afford evidence of the mildness of the climate. The white double rose camellia, blooms abundantly in the month of November, and orange trees endure the winter with only a slight occasional covering of matting.

During the spring, easterly winds generally prevail, while west are the prevailing winds during the rest of the year, as the shorn aspect of the trees, in that direction of the coast, indicates. The frequent transitions of temperature before alluded to, and the prevalence of keen winds in the early part of the year, render that season trying to persons whose lungs are susceptible to such influences. But even in so small an island, differences of climate are to be met with.

The prevailing disease in Guernsey, is that proteiform malady dyspepsia, popularly misnamed "biliousness." It affects the peasantry more generally than the town residents, in consequence no doubt of their meagre diet,—their vegetable soup,—their tea, fish, barley bread, and

cider. The inhabitants, however, are notwithstanding a hardy, though not apparently, a robust race; and generally attain a good old age. Among the children of the lower classes in town, marasmus is common; and although healthy during infancy, they become puny, in childhood. On the whole, Guernsey must be considered a healthy island, exempt from endemics, and rarely affected with epidemic diseases; and when they show themselves, their type is generally mild. Scarlet fever, measles, hooping cough, &c., are more tractable, and certainly less fatal than in England. Malignant diseases of a specific character, and acute inflammatory affections, are comparatively rare. During spring, sub-acute bronchitis, and in the autumnal season, bowel complaints, are frequent; the latter, doubtless partly owing to the quantity of fruit grown in the island, and imported from France. The more aggravated forms of fever are seldom seen,—the prevailing type being the simple continued, or remittent, accompanied by sub-acute inflammation of the mucous membranes; which tissue is much more liable to

derangement than the serous. Intermittent fever, as an endemic, has been unknown for a number of years, though formerly prevalent in certain districts. It is a singular fact that its disappearance is co-eval with the recovery of a considerable tract of land by the exclusion of an arm of the sea, in the lower parishes, where the occasional appearance of the remittent fever before alluded to, has superseded ague :—these fevers, however, only occur when great heat has succeeded a long continuance of rain.

During the autumn of 1832, the cholera suddenly burst out in certain parts of the town, raged violently for three days, and at the end of the week, disappeared entirely, having carried off about ninety-nine individuals from a dense population of about 14000!

CHAPTER III.

General description of the interior; aspect and scenery; bays; druidical remains; the country people and their character, and mode of life; small proprietors, and cottagers; singular usage; dress, and personal appearance; dialect; laws affecting property.

When speaking of Jersey, I said, that "the general aspect of the island is wooded fertility, and the general character of its scenery, softness and beauty." This observation is inapplicable to Guernsey, which is neither so well wooded and productive, as Jersey; nor, in the general attractions of its natural scenery, can at all be compared with it. Taste and money, have produced greater results here than in Jersey: and this is true, not only in speaking of the immediate environs of St. Peter's Port, but of the island generally. Houses of a very superior description are met with, in every excursion through the island; and

these are very generally surrounded by grounds of some considerable extent; well laid out; and in the very best order. But the lover of natural scenery, will be less gratified in Guernsey than in Jersey: he will miss the extensive orchards; the arcades of branches, beneath which, in Jersey, he may drive for miles, and walk for a long summer's day; he will miss the wooded bays and coves; the shady hollows, and the deep winding valleys, with their wood clothed slopes, and their fine brimful rivulets. For the absence of these indeed, there are some indemnifications; there are more open views; a freer circulation of air; and a greater abundance of handsome country seats. It must not be supposed however, from what I have said, that Guernsey is destitute of timber; and without natural beauty. When I say, that the scenery and aspect of Guernsey, are English, I pay the island no indifferent compliment. In most parts of the island, there is a fair sprinkling of wood,—in some parts abundance. Wherever we find a gentleman's seat, the absence of shade can never be complained of; and in the

comparative scarcity of wood generally, there is more variety of scenery; for the grass and corn fields of Jersey, are often hidden by the wood which intervenes.

One reason why Guernsey has a more naked aspect than the sister island is, that the inclosures and embankments, which are there planted with trees, are formed in Guernsey of furze. There is at least, great gaiety in this substitute. Its yellow blossoms form an agreeable variety in colour; and relieve the monotony of those more sterile parts of the island, where the furze is not confined to the inclosures, and fences, but is raised as a product, for the purposes of fuel. There is indeed, a considerable portion of waste land in Guernsey; and one part of the island presents a totally different aspect from the other: for, while the east, south, and central parts of the island, present all the characteristics of fruitfulness and industry, large tracts in the north and western parts, are but imperfectly reclaimed; and present a very uninviting and sterile appearance. A considerable portion of the island is indeed but

recently reclaimed from the sea, which had at an early period overflowed it; and the part of the island which lay beyond, and higher than the submerged portion, was only accessible by a narrow stone causeway, until the year 1808, when by the erection of an embankment, the tide was excluded, and the land reclaimed. It is now enclosed and cultivated; but is, as may be supposed, destitute of wood; and little attractive in appearance.

Guernsey has its pretty bays, as well as Jersey; though they are in general, less land locked, and less wooded. Fermain bay, Petit-Bo, and Moulin-Huet, are all three worth a visit; but will certainly not compare with Grève de Lecq, Rozel, or St. Brelade's bays, in Jersey.

In driving through Guernsey, one cannot fail to be pleased with the comfortable appearance of the farm houses, and even cottages. I have not seen in Guernsey such large establishments as in Jersey, or so extensive buildings: but neither have I seen any cottages so poor. There is I think, an air of greater neatness and comfort,

about the farm house in Guernsey, than in Jersey; in fact, the people of all ranks are more English.

There are not many objects in Guernsey, excepting in St. Peter's Port, worthy of any special notice. A Guernseyman would conduct a traveller to the druidical monuments: but I shall do no more than say, that such exist; and that one of the most perfect among them, was only discovered in the year 1812, having been till that time, covered by heaps of sand. Some antique vessels were found within it, and some remains of human bones. There is also an obelisk of Celtic origin; but without any inscription.

To one visiting Guernsey, I would offer the same advice as I did when speaking of Jersey. Visit whatever may be pointed out; but undertake at all events, a pedestrian journey round the island. Descend into the bays, double the headlands, and skirt the cliffs, though it may be necessary to hold by the furze. This is the way to see an island. Many fine scenes, and singular spots escape one, if excursions be only directed to

particular points: and as there is not in Guernsey any particular spot, like La Hougue Bie, in Jersey, from which the whole island is embraced, it is necessary, in Guernsey, to make more exploratory journeys in the interior.

But it is now time that I should say something of the inhabitants of the island; and first, I shall speak of the middle and lower classes,—the country people generally.

It is scarcely to be supposed, that there is any very marked distinction between the characters of the people of Guernsey, and of Jersey. Love of acquisition distinguishes both; and perhaps, in nearly an equal degree; though I confess I have not observed, nor have been able to obtain such glaring proofs of extreme parsimony in Guernsey, as in Jersey. It is certain, however, that they are a thrifty, and a saving people; but it is equally certain, that among the more substantial farmers, the manner of living has considerably swerved of late years, from the old, and generally prevailing style; and that although "soupe à la graisse," is not exploded, a meat diet

is creeping in; and foreign luxuries, and modern usages, are more prevalent among the country people, than in Jersey. That such should be the case, will appear quite natural, when I come to speak of the upper classes; among whom, in comparison with Jersey, little or nothing of the old island domestic economy prevails; and whose tastes, and example, have had their effect, in the production of new and improved habits throughout the island.

As in Jersey, the country people live upon, and cultivate their own properties, which are, upon the whole, even more limited than in Jersey. Quail in his agricultural report says, that the largest estate does not exceed 200 Guernsey vergées, $2\frac{3}{4}\frac{3}{8}$ of which, equal an English acre: and that few exceed 100 vergées. The farmer of 20 or 30 acres, is considered a large farmer: but of course, the great mass of properties are much inferior in extent.

There are three classes of the country people; the substantial land owner and farmer; the small proprietor; and the cottager. All the three

classes have however one object:—the accumulation of money; and, generally speaking, all accomplish it. The first class, like their equals in Jersey, mostly live upon that part of the produce of their properties which is the least marketable,—raising parsnips and beet root, for the consumption of their cattle; potatoes for the distilleries, and for exportation; and apples for cider; and gradually acquiring land, or rents, with their savings. The smaller proprietor raises the same articles in smaller quantities. He has his one cow, and his few pigs; and being still more economical in proportion to his means, than the class above him, he seldom fails to hoard a little treasure. Such individuals too, often add to their agriculture pursuits, the trades of carpenter or mason,—or some handicraft; and walk daily six or seven miles to and from their work; and snatching a day from time to time, for the cultivation of their own little estates. It often happens too, that these small proprietors, who chance to live near the coast, are fishermen, —three or four clubbing in the ownership of

a boat; and while the husband on his return, cultivates his ground, the wife carries the fish to market. The day labourer is either a cottager; or one of the family of the small proprietor: and he also saves money; urged by the honest ambition of being able to build a cottage on the small patrimonial division that may descend to him on the death of his parents.

I have already spoken generally, of the respectable and neat exterior of the houses and cottages of the country people. I would add, that the interior seldom fails to answer the expectations which one forms. There is a neatness about the arrangements, which at once favourably impresses the stranger; and even in entering a cottage, where there is only a "but and a ben," I have seen as clean floors, and as neat a display of crockery and kitchen utensils, as one could find in any of the more comfortable English cottages. In Guernsey, the "lit de veille" is more universally seen than in Jersey. This "lit de veille" is a broad bed frame, occupying one corner of the common room, raised about a foot and a half

above the ground, and covered with dry fern, or hay, or pea-haum. On these "lits de veille," the young people in the house where it is, and of the neighbouring houses, to the number of a dozen perhaps, or even considerably more, and of both sexes, assemble during the long winter evenings; sitting in a circle, feet to feet. There the girls sow or knit, and the young men talk or sing. One large lamp is suspended overhead; and some say,—arguing perhaps, from the parsimonious character of the natives,—that the custom originated in the advantage of saving fire and candle, since one light suffices for the inhabitants of many houses; and since no fire is needed, where a score of persons are packed so close together. One would imagine, that such a custom as this, would be productive of idle habits, and possibly even, of worse: but judging both by the industrious habits of the population, and by their general pure morality, I should infer, that no such effects are produced. This custom, however, like many others, is on the wane in both islands. In Jersey, I have seen the walls against which the "lit de

veille" is placed, and the roof above, festooned with flowers and shrubs,—laurel, myrtle, rose, and sun-flower; so that the scene is sometimes equally pretty as it is curious.

The peculiar dress too, of the inhabitants, is like their ancient customs, undergoing a rapid change; particularly the head gear of the women. I was surprised and somewhat amused by this remnant of old things, the first time I chanced to see it. To begin at the head,—the bonnet, the true ancient Guernsey bonnet, still seen occasionally amongst the older inhabitants,—is equally complicated, as it is curious; it is sui generis; and like the lily of Guernsey peculiar to the isle. I can scarcely be expected to be graphic in my description of the make and fashioning of a bonnet; and conscience of my own deficiences, I obtained the following from one more conversant with these matters. "The crown of the bonnet (which is altogether of very large dimensions), is formed of a long piece of silk, gathered into three rows of plaits, of an oval shape, from the front to the back of the head; and is set off between the

folds, with lace, or crape, according as the wearer is, or is not in mourning. A very large, and very complex bow of narrow ribbon is plaited immediately in front. The top of the crown, is either flat or is plaited to correspond with the rest of the bonnet; and on the tip top, another bow is perched. The front, of pasteboard, is covered with silk, and resembles the vizor of a boy's cap; and is continued somewhat beyond the ears." Such is the Guernsey bonnet, which is accompanied by a close mob cap underneath, with a narrow muslin border; plain on the forehead and temples; but plaited from the ears to the chin. I must sketch the remainder of the dress. A petticoat of black stuff, thickly quilted, the gown,—of an old fashioned chintz pattern,—open in front, and tucked into the pocket holes of the petticoat; the boddice open in front to the waist,—with a colored handkerchief in lieu of a habit-shirt; tight sleeves,—terminating just below the elbow; blue worsted stockings, with black velvet shoes and buckles. This dress, picturesque bonnet and all, is repudiated by the rising gene-

ration, who have discovered that the charms of youth are not greatly set off by the quilted petticoat, and towering bonnet, and blue worsted stockings.

I cannot greatly compliment the personal appearance of the Guernsey country people. There are dark and sparkling eyes among the women; but their features remind me of persons of colour; from whom, by the bye, in their complexions, they do not greatly differ. The men, are, with few exceptions, badly limbed; and among the women too, the bust is better than the ankles.

The dialect of Guernsey differs considerably from that of Jersey. But it is of course difficult, if not impossible, to explain the difference. The dialect is even different, in different parishes: for the nearer these lie to the towns, the less pure is the dialect spoken. The word "pure" may be thought by some, to be inappropriately used: but in fact, the patois of both islands, as it is spoken in the interior parishes, is nearly the pure French of some centuries ago; and while the French has changed, the language of these Norman islands

remains nearly as when Wace,* the Jersey poet, composed his "Roman du Rou," in the year 1160. Indeed, the inhabitants of the Channel Islands, in those parishes where their families have constantly intermarried, are purer Normans, than are now to be found elsewhere. The people of Normandy are French.

Before leaving the agricultural population, to

* Campbell, in his specimens of English poetry, says "The first of the Norman poets from whom any versifier in the language is known to have translated, was Wace, a native of Jersey, born in the reign of Henry II."

The most important of Wace's works is the "Roman du Rou (Rollo) et les ducs de Normandie." It is written in four parts, the first and fourth parts written in octo syllabic verse; the second and third in Alexandrine; and contains successively, the history of the first Normans in France and England; the history of Rou, or Rollo; the history of William, long sword, and of Richard I his son; and the history of the latter part of Richard the 1st's reign, and that of his successors up to 1106. The poem consists of sixteen thousand, five hundred and forty two verses; and is one of the most curious relics which remains to us, of the language of the Normans whilst under the dominion of their dukes. The chroniques de Normandie, printed at Rouen in 1487 by Guillaume le Tailleur are neither more nor less than a prose copy of this poem, with additions and corrections of style, by an unknown compiler of the 13th century.

speak of the higher classes, and town population I would mention, that the laws affecting the state and descent of property, although generally the same as those which regulate property in Jersey, yet differ in some respects. One is, that a fine on the alienation of property, which formerly obtained in the ci-devant provinces of France, is still collected in Guernsey, on the part of the lords of the crown, and lords of the fiefs; but in place of one thirteenth part of the purchase money, which was exigible in Normandy, in Guernsey it is generally compounded for, on payment of 2 per cent, on the purchase money. Another difference between Guernsey and Jersey is, that there is not in the former island, any direct law to prevent partitioning lands below a prescribed number of vergées; so that land is infinitely divisible. One other difference is, that the legislature of Guernsey, has not as in Jersey, thought fit to fix an invariable payment, in lieu of those corn rents, which fluctuate with the price of wheat; a regulation which Quail, in his report to the Board of Agriculture, says "falls in some

instances grievously heavy upon the purchasers of dwelling houses who have granted rents of this description."

CHAPTER IV.

The upper classes in Guernsey; state of society; reasons of its superior tone; exclusiveness; fine arts; the drama; puritanism; the spirit and influence of the press.

In speaking of the upper classes in Guernsey, I feel that I am entering upon an agreeable division of my subject.

Many, indeed the greater part, of the observations I have made respecting the character of the country people of Jersey, apply, in a somewhat modified form, to the same class in Guernsey. In Guernsey, as in Jersey, we find insular independence, though somewhat less sturdy; parsimony, though in some degree less unyielding; with industry, and all the other lights and shades which it throws on human character,—though scarcely so strongly marked. For the origin of

the milder degree in which we contemplate insular character among the country people of Guernsey, we must have recourse to the character and habits of the classes immediately above them. In all ages, and in all countries, we find the lower classes remain nearly stationary, unless they are acted upon by the upper strata of society.

There is a marked difference in the state of society in Jersey and in Guernsey: and my object being, to speak truth, without any interest in pleasing the one,—or any fear of offending the other,—I am bound to say, speaking with reference to those classes which, from station or wealth are usually denominated the upper classes, that it will require at least another generation, before the general level of civilization in Jersey, can be raised so high as it is at this moment in Guernsey. To the most cursory observer this must be obvious. Guernsey, and its localities, though far from indifferent to a Guernseyman in the educated classes, do not wholly engross his thoughts, or form the theme of his conversation. The world at large has a share in both: and if this were the

only distinction between Jersey and Guernsey, it would be sufficient to establish the superiority; for it is, in fact, the best evidence that could be adduced, of a higher state of civilization.

That there should be this superiority in Guernsey, is no way wonderful; though I believe it has been the product of but late years. The absence of that party spirit, which in Jersey, so divides society, is perhaps of itself, sufficient to account for it: not only because it has allowed a freer intercourse; but more especially, because the absence of those topics of local politics, which in Jersey are the fulcrums upon which party spirit hangs, permits the mind to be employed in more useful, and more humanizing speculations; and leaves conversation at liberty to be a means of mutual instruction. In Guernsey, I have never heard conversation turn upon any question of local politics. I make a distinction between questions of local interest, and questions of local politics. It would be a poor compliment, to say, that the agriculture, the commerce, the improvement of the island, formed no theme of conversa-

tion in Guernsey; but such themes are very dissimilar from the angry discussions, or the engrossing colloquies, on matters of party politics, which are so inimical to the progress of civilization.

I may state as another reason of the higher standard of civilization in Guernsey, the greater wealth of the upper classes. As I am not writing a history of Guernsey, I do not concern myself with how that wealth was acquired: it is sufficient for my purpose that it has been acquired; or is inherited; and that it has been possessed by many, so long, that the tastes and habits incident to the act of acquiring, have been lost; and that those other tastes have grown, which are the sure followers of independence, and which lead to the refinement of a people. It is possible, that in Jersey, there may be a very few on an equality in wealth, with any in the sister island; and it is probably also true, that in Jersey, there are more individuals in the way of acquiring wealth,—the natural result of its superior trade; but in Guernsey, there is a vast preponderance over Jersey, in the number of those, whose fortunes now are, or have always been, independent of trade.

From this fact, arises a third reason why civilization is higher in Guernsey than in Jersey. The inhabitants have seen more of the world. To meet a travelled Jerseyman, is rare. In Guernsey, few who have the means of travelling, have omitted to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Some accidental circumstances have also had their influence. More and better English alliances have been formed in Guernsey, than in Jersey. The greater attractions of Guernsey society, and the less temptation, which the higher prices of Guernsey have held out to residents, have brought a somewhat superior class of strangers; and I would add, that the residence of Lord De Saumarez on his patrimonial ground, has also had its influence in raising the tone of society.

If I am asked where are the proofs of superior civilization,—I may answer, that none are required; since it is impossible, that the different circumstances in which Guernsey and Jersey are placed, could fail to produce a difference in their respective states of society. But this superiority is seen in a thousand things. It is observable, in

more varied topics of conversation; in more extended; and more liberal views; in more amenity of manner; in greater respect for talent and acquirements; above all, in a more perfect understanding of the English language, which not only facilitates an acquaintance with those models which cannot be studied without corresponding effects; but excludes the use of a dialect which is as unsuited to civilized life, as are the habits of the people among whom it was employed two centuries ago.

The state of Guernsey society, and the nature of social intercourse, are nearly the same as are found in any other place where there is an equal portion of wealth and civilization. Much has been said, and many jibes have been indulged, on the subject of Guernsey exclusiveness; and the strictness of the line which separates classes, has been both complained of, and ridiculed. The exclusives have been called "sixties,"—the second class "forties,"—and it has been even said, that the number of candles carried in a lantern, indicate the class to which the individual profiting by

it, belongs. That there is an aristocracy in Guernsey, is true; and that there is a strict line of demarcation between trade, and those who live, and have always lived without it, is most true: but I do not know, that the distinction which obtains in Guernsey, is at all different from that which is observed in any town where there is a resident gentry. If the exclusive privileges of an aristocracy, were limited to the comparatively harmless pride of forming a society among themselves, it would be well. The people would nowhere grudge this. At the same time, I am no advocate for an exclusiveness, which prefers a coat of arms, to a cultivated mind, and gentlemanly manners: and in these days, I do not think society requires a code of laws to keep it in order. Society naturally falls into different levels; and I think, should be left to find them. I question whether artificial props are wise inventions.

There is no reason to doubt that the natural course of events, will correct whatever is amiss; and that the progress of intelligence, the growth and more equal distribution of wealth, and the

other causes which are silently effecting changes throughout the world—and especially in England, will break down those barriers which were reared by the superior intelligence, the superior refinement, and the more ample means of gratifying taste, once possessed by the aristocracy; but which ought not to exist, a moment after these are removed. The establishment of Elizabeth College too, will facilitate this change; children of different classes of society will be educated together; intimacies will be formed; equality of treatment, and a community of knowledge, will weaken, if not erase aristocratic distinctions: playmates will become friends; friendships will lead to family connections and alliances; and exclusiveness will die away, because there will be no longer any rational or defined line of demarcation.

The tone of the best society in Guernsey is unobjectionable; and whether in dress, manner, appointments or language, is on a level with society of the same rank in England. Parties of a hundred and fifty or two hundred persons,

are given every fortnight, by a certain limited number of families of the exclusive classes; and at these entertainments, I have seen nothing wanting, that either money or taste could command. I have heard it remarked by persons who had mixed a great deal in good English society, that there is somewhat too much stateliness to be seen; and that one was occasionally reminded of persons playing at kings and queens. It would not have occurred to me, to make the observation; but this I must admit, that unless on gala days, things are not always in perfect keeping. The door of a house like a palace, or at least, of such a house as no one in England would think of living in, who possessed less than £6000 or £8000 a year, is perhaps, opened in Guernsey, by a female servant. This is a trifle, but it is a trifle worth telling.

English residents have complained of the difficulty of gaining admission into Guernsey society. When speaking of Jersey, I made some remarks upon this complaint, which apply equally to Guernsey, as to Jersey: and I will only now

repeat, that it is an unreasonable expectation for any one to indulge, that the best society is to be open to him who brings no passport to it,—no proof that he has a claim to its attentions.

Owing to the better opportunities which many in Guernsey have enjoyed both in England and on the Continent, of judging of the fine arts, by seeing and hearing the best models,—painting and music are more cultivated, and more patronized in this island, than in Jersey. At Castle Carey, the residence of J. Carey, Esq., there is a good collection of pictures, chiefly of the Spanish school. There are Murillos and Espagnolettos, —and some clever things by others than the Spanish masters; particularly by Bassano, Guido, Teniers, and Salvator; though it is questionable, whether the pictures ascribed to the latter, be really from the hand of this great master. The collection is well worth a visit; and the proprietor has much pleasure in showing his pictures to those who are capable of appreciating their merits.

As the best proof I could give, of the superior estimation in which music is held in Guernsey,

comparatively with Jersey, I need only state, that I have known the same highly respectable Italian company, perform one week, to empty houses in Jersey, and the next, draw overflowing audiences in Guernsey.

Altogether, among the native inhabitants of Guernsey, there is less work, and more play, than in Jersey: less of the business of life; and more of its elegances. Visiting, amongst the upper classes, is on a somewhat different footing. There are fewer clubs; rather less clanship; and dinner parties are not so much confined to relations,—nor so much limited to seasons, and particular days. As for the tea parties, or, as Mr. Berry calls them, in a book on Guernsey, "humdrums," from which he says "the ladies trudge home on pattens, with state lanterns,"—tea parties and gossip no doubt continue yet; but better paved streets, and gas lamps, have rendered pattens and lanterns unnecessary; and the encrease of private vehicles has provided a still better substitute.

I have only to add, that a taste for the drama

can scarcely be said to exist in Guernsey,—at least not among the upper classes. The best evidence of this is, that the theatre is little better than a barn,—though indeed it may possibly be, that the performances in Guernsey are so indifferent, that taste is shown rather in staying at home, than in witnessing them. It is difficult sometimes, to distinguish between causes and effects. The people, it may be said, do not go to the theatre, because it is a mere barn; but it may be answered,—the theatre would not be a barn, were there sufficient dramatic taste to provide a suitable house. It may be said, the inhabitants do not go to the theatre because the performances are so indifferent; to which it may be answered,—if there were a demand for good performers, the supply would speedily follow. One cause however of the ill odour in which theatrical entertainments are held, is certainly the prevalence of puritanism, which has unquestionably made rapid advances in Guernsey during the last few years. Before I left the Channel Islands, "the tongues" had made their appear-

ance; and a Reverend gentleman of the episcopal persuasion, had been displaced by the Bishop of Winchester, by reason of his countenancing these extravagancies.

Before concluding this chapter, I will advert for a moment, to the influence of the press on society; which I think is no way more powerful than it is in Jersey,—though a different reason is to be assigned for this. Society in Guernsey, is certainly in that state in which we should expect to find the press exerting some influence; but there is in fact no room for such influence. The want of interest generally felt in public affairs, necessarily deprives public journals of interest or influence; and this is the case in Guernsey. The people having no representation in the mother country, and being placed beyond the effects of its legislatorial enactments, have little interest in parliamentary questions, and British politics: and so happily is Guernsey situated, as regards her insular government, that questions of local politics rarely arise, to provoke discussion. Besides; in a small community like Guernsey,

where everybody knows everybody's business; the mysteries of editorship cannot be sustained; and the magical "*we*" is powerless; because it is identified with Mr. ——; an individual whom everybody knows, and daily sees; and nobody cares for.

Newspapers, good enough to be influential, cannot be supported by the upper classes alone; and the Guernsey public generally, is not a reading, or speculative public; and there is no temptation to contribute to the public journals. No credit is to be gained; and as an incognito cannot easily be preserved, few who are competent to instruct, or guide the public opinion, care to run the risk of obloquy, or of the indirect rejoinders, which are the offspring of jealousy. Original communications are therefore common place; and editorial observations, such as they might be expected to be in a community like Guernsey, where there being no "taxes on knowledge," and newspapers requiring no capital, the number of journals is multiplied, while at the same time the limited sphere of circulation, prevents the possi-

bility of paying for talent. There are five newspapers in Guernsey, two of them (English) appearing twice a week; and chiefly containing extracts from the English and French papers,—local occurrences,—advertisements,—and original articles savouring largely on puritanism. The Guernsey English papers are only about one half the size of those published in Jersey.

CHAPTER V.

AGRICULTURE IN GUERNSEY.

The introductory observations which I made in the first volume of this work, on the agriculture of Jersey, are also applicable to the sister island. I allude to the almost infinite division of property (in Guernsey carried to a greater extent even, than in Jersey,) and its natural effects, in restraining the accumulation of capital; and consequently, in crippling improvement in husbandry. The size of properties in Guernsey vary, from five to twelve English acres,—very few of them exceeding this extent; and land is constantly more and more subdivided; owing, as I stated in a former chapter, to the state of the law, which allows to each son, a legal right to an equal share of his father's landed property—the exception in favour

of the eldest only being, that he is entitled to the house, and about twenty perches of land around it.

The circumstances which are common to both Jersey and Guernsey, necessarily occasion a great similarity in their husbandry management: but there are, nevertheless, some differences,—among others,— the heterogeneous crops seen in Jersey, are scarcely to be found in Guernsey; and in the harvesting of barley, the singular custom prevails, of pulling the grain up by the roots. Quail says, the reason assigned for this singular practice is, the gain in the bulk of the straw obtained: and in the benefit to the clover crop.

In speaking of the price of land in Guernsey, that which is called building ground, must be excluded. Within a mile of St. Peter's Port, and adjoining the high road, such ground sells at enormous and constantly encreasing prices; and in the more fashionable neighbourhoods, it has commonly brought from £500 to £1000 per English acre, in parcels of from half an acre, to one acre each. Within the same distance of the town, good arable or pasture land, lets freely at

from £7 to £10 per English acre; and in the country, a farm of from five to ten acres, with a small house attached to it, will let at little less than £6. It is a fact, that although employing spade husbandry, no man, unless he labours assiduously, and exercises the most severe economy, can live upon his property, and pay his rent.

I need scarcely say, that the produce of corn land, varies according to years and soil; four Winchester quarters per English acre, is considered a good crop of wheat; but this is very frequently obtained; and six even, have been known to be produced.

Of the land under tillage, which is rapidly on the encrease in Guernsey, wheat is most generally grown; and the red is preferred; partly because of its producing heavier crops; and partly because it is less obnoxious to the ravages of small birds, which, especially sparrows, are exceedingly numerous in Guernsey, although the States of the island, have for years past, granted a sum of £70 per annum, as a premium for the destruction of sparrows. Barley generally follows a wheat

crop, and is of an excellent quality. When Quail wrote, it appears, that barley was chiefly used for bread; but it is now chiefly disposed of to the brewers for malting; and has of late been sold at 12s. the Guernsey bushel, which contains 55lbs. English. Oats and rye are neither of them much cultivated in Guernsey, unless merely for house use. Sometimes oats form the first crop on land on which furze has been grown: but since the peace has opened the continental ports, the island can be supplied with oats, cheaper than it can grow the grain.

Parsnips, though still extensively cultivated, are somewhat on the decline. This is owing to the more extensive cultivation of beet-root, and of potatoes, for the use of the distilleries, and for exportation; and the cultivation of these roots, being much less expensive than that of parsnips, it is now more in vogue.

Quail states that sea sand is employed in Guernsey husbandry, and is found beneficial: but sea sand purely so, is not in use; the only sea sand used, being that which is mixed with decom-

posed sea weed,—and which is then, rather mud than sand. The sand of Guernsey contains few or no calcareous particles, being mere pulverized granite; and is consequently of no service in vegetation; unless on very heavy lands, of which there are scarcely any in Guernsey.

With the exception of the draining of marsh lands,—from which fine meadows have been formed,—and the improvements in live stock, no great alterations in the husbandry of Guernsey have taken place during the last twenty years. The establishment, however, sometime ago, of an agricultural society, under the very best management, bids fair to effect important improvements; and in the breeding of cattle, to which I shall presently more particularly allude, it has already proved the efficacy of such an establishment.

But on all properties and farms of tolerable size, the dairy is the principal object of attention: and is also the most profitable part of farming. The butter always finds an immediate sale in the market at 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; although French and Dutch butter may be purchased at one half

of that price. A good cow is expected to yield 7 lbs. of butter per week; and many have been known to produce double that quantity for a short period. The cows are universally tethered, as in Jersey, and are moved, watered, and milked, three times a day. From about the beginning of November, during the winter, parsnips and mangel wurzel are given to the cows at night.

The price of Guernsey cows may be thus stated. An average good farmer's cow will cost from £9 to £11. A handsome cow, for a gentleman's dairy, from £11 to £14. A known good cow, such as might be sent as a specimen, from £14 to £16. Heifers about 2½ years old, ready to calve, sell about £2 below these classes,—classifying them as above.

The export of cows from Guernsey is not large. I have been told that one reason why so few cows are sent to England, is, that it is difficult to tempt even a small farmer to part with his cow. This however, appears to be an insufficient reason; for as all cows are not of equal goodness, the farmer might part with his inferior animals. In

1832, there were exported 238 cows, and 394 heifers and calves. In 1833,—185 cows, and 368 heifers and cows.

There are few points of island jealousy, I may say indeed, of obstinacy in prejudice carried farther, than that which regards the breed of cows, of Jersey and Guernsey. It is certain however, that of late years, greater attention has been bestowed upon the breed of cattle in Guernsey, than in Jersey; and the law forbidding the importation of any foreign breed, has been scrupulously acted upon. A Guernsey farmer would not upon any account, admit a Jersey cow on his grounds. In England, no difference between Guernsey and Jersey cows, is understood: but the number of the latter exported, being by far the greater, they are generally better known to the jobbers.

The Guernsey cattle are considerably larger than those of Jersey: and it appears, from the evidence of the clerk of the market, that an ox has attained the weight of 1500 lbs. Quail, in his report, says, those of 1200 lbs., or 60 score, appear not unfrequently. I am told, that a Guernsey cow, when its nativity is distinctly known, and when offered

among those best able to judge, fetches a higher price than the Jersey cow. This may possibly be owing to the larger size; for there can be no doubt, that greater size, supposing all the other points equal, gives the animal an advantage. The following is the description and standard of excellence of a Guernsey cow, transmitted to me by one well versed in those matters. Colour: light red, yellow and white. The points of excellence are 20, viz:—1. Pedigree of the bull, as well as the cow; yellow ears, tail, and good udder, 7 points. 2. General appearance; colour, cream, light red, or both, mixed with white, 3 points. 3. Handsome head, well horned; and bright and prominent eye, 4 points. 4. Deep barrel shaped body, 3 points. 5. Good hind quarters, and straight back, 2 points. 6. Handsome legs, and small bone, 1 point. I believe however, this classification of points of excellence is not rigidly adhered to. I have seen it stated of the Guernsey cows, young and old, that the general average is rather more than 365 lbs. of butter in the year, being equal to 1 lb. of butter or eight quarts of milk in the 24 hours.

But the proof of the superiority of the Guernsey cow, the most triumphantly appealed to, is the superiority of the Guernsey butter. Without meaning to take any side in the dispute, I would merely say, that the superiority of the butter, is not a certain test of the superiority of the cow: because it may arise from the superior management of the dairy. That superiority of the Guernsey butter, however, I fully admit. I do not know that I have any where seen such butter as in the Guernsey market: and if such superiority really be a proof of superiority in the cow, the palm must unquestionably be awarded to Guernsey.

Three vergées and a half, or about one acre three-fourths English, good land, are considered sufficient for the support of a cow. In Bellingsley's agricultural survey of Somersetshire, he says, "from three to four acres of land, will keep a cow, throughout the year." It is perhaps difficult to account for this difference, betwixt England and these islands, in the quantity of land required for the keep of a cow. Perhaps

the best explanation may be found, in the system of staking the cows, to which in all the islands, I have already alluded. The stake being frequently changed during the day, each time, a new semi-circular range of four or five feet is added; and the grass is perhaps eaten cleaner; and is less generally trodden down. Thus, a practice, which at first sight appears almost cruel, and which an English agriculturist would certainly deride, is perhaps one cause of the prosperity of the islands, by allowing a greater number of cattle to be reared and exported than could have been, under what would be called, an improved system.

The prejudice entertained by each island, in favour of its own breed of cattle, is not without its use. It leads to attention towards the breed; although it must be admitted, that until the institution of the Agricultural Society of Guernsey, no systematic attempt was made, in either island, to raise the standard: the law, forbidding the importation of other breeds,—which by the bye, was carried farther in Jersey, than in Guernsey;

as in the former island, not only are foreign cattle prohibited, but the breeds also of the neighbouring islands, was deemed sufficient protection. The Agricultural Society of Guernsey however, has successfully exerted itself in the improvement of all kinds of live stock.—horses and pigs, as well as cattle. A native sow, fattened almost exclusively on raw parsnips, was lately killed in Guernsey, weighing 640 lbs. English (80 stone Smithfield weight), not including offal. It was sold at 4½d. per lb. Guernsey weight, which is 10 oz. heavier than English weight.

To these notices, I would only add, that the same facilities for the conveyance of produce to market, and for other agricultural improvements, by the construction of new roads, exist here, as in Jersey; and that this excellent measure met with about equal opposition from the country people of both islands. Quail says, "one farmer evinced his sincerity, by enjoining on his death bed, that his remains, on their conveyance to their last home, should not be carried over any part of the new road."

CHAPTER VI.

THE TRADE OF GUERNSEY.

In my chapter on the trade of Jersey, I stated, that the commerce of Guernsey was much less important than the commerce of that island. The island indeed affords fewer facilities for an extended commere, than Jersey: indeed, so little is there of produce or manufacture to export, that it is not at all unusual for vessels to leave the island on ballast, for another country, there to begin their mercantile adventure: for the Guernsey merchants do not, like those of Jersey, possess extensive establishments in North America, which afford markets for the export of foreign, British and colonial produce; or British, or island manufacture. Nor,—although there is abundance of wealth in Guernsey,—is that wealth so exten-

sively embarked in ship ownership, and foreign trade. The tonnage of Guernsey shipping, reaches only 9157 tons: and in place of the present tonnage being an encrease on former years, as we have found it to be in Jersey, it has suffered a diminution since the year 1813, when it reckoned fourteen more vessels, and nearly 2000 tons more tonnage.

During all the latter part of the last century, and indeed, throughout the wars of the revolution, independently of the large illicit trade which was carried on, a considerable accession to trade arose, from Guernsey being made a deposit for foreign wines, and other goods: which were passed legally to England, when required. This was before the introduction of the bonding system into England, when the duties exacted on large cargoes of merchandize, required immense outlay of capital: and for the facilities of trade—especially of the wine trade,—the climate of Guernsey, its large and excellent vaults,—and its vicinity of the island to England, offered important advantages. The bonding system however, was a fatal

blow to this branch of the trade of Guernsey: and in the beginning of the present century, strict regulations on the subject of illicit trade, were also enforced, which knocked it on the head for ever. Why the capital and enterprize of Guernsey, were not then turned into the same lucrative channels which have conducted the trade of Jersey to its present prosperity, it is difficult to assign a reason.

The commerce of Guernsey, consists chiefly, of the carrying trade. Vessels are fitted out for a port in Spain, or the Mediterranean, there to take in cargoes of wines, with which they proceed to South America. The cargoes being disposed of, the vessels are then re-loaded with sugar, coffee, &c. With these new cargoes, the vessels probably return to Guernsey for orders, for it seldom happens now, that their goods are stored in Guernsey. They are then perhaps despatched to the north,—as to Antwerp, Rotterdam, or Hamburgh; or possibly to the Mediterranean again. If to the former ports, they bring back corn, which terminates the voyage; or if to the Mediterra-

nean, the cargoes are discharged; and another trip with wines then commences to South America.

It is evident, that this is a somewhat precarious trade; the merchant, who chiefly navigates his own vessels, being dependent for his profits on the turn of the different foreign markets,—having neither an inland market at home, to depend upon; nor, like the Jersey shipowners and merchants,—establishments in British colonies, affording a ready market for all the commodities applicable to civilized life.

The imports and exports of Guernsey bear considerable affinity to those of Jersey, though there are important differences; and in their relative value the affinity is small. The exports of island produce are necessarily smaller, from the less extent, and less productiveness of the island. I have before me, the exports and imports for the year, from 11th October, 1832, to the same day in October, 1833; from which I find, that the export of cows was only 185,—of heifers 302,—of calves 66,—an import altogether insignificant compared with that of Jersey. During

the same period, there was exported 116,832 gallons of cider; 939½ quarters of Guernsey wheat; 1708 barrels, and 968 sacks of Guernsey flour; 49,837 bushels of potatoes; 1877½ bushels of apples. The export of potatoes was formerly greater; but that export has of late years diminished, owing to the use of the potato in the manufacture of spirit, and also of vinegar. I find accordingly, among the exports of the above period, 19,568 gallons of potato spirits. But the large consumption of this vegetable, has so enhanced its price, that this manufacture of spirit from it, must of necessily decline; and indeed, the export of 1832 was more than one-third greater than that of 1833.

Besides the potato spirit, I find some other articles of island produce, which do not enter into the exports of Jersey; the most important of which, during the above year, was 1411 tons, and 1980 feet, with 34,641 tons of stone chippings. The Guernsey granite is of the very best quality; a cubic foot of this stone, weighs 2999 oz.: while a cubic foot of the Aberdeen, weighs 2690 oz.

The trade of Guernsey, in wine and spirits, is still very large. During the above year, there were imported 264,201 gallons of wine, of which, 112,500 gallons were exported; and of brandy, there were imported no less than 240,913 gallons, of which, however, I find only 53,057 gallons exported.

I find imported during the above year, 16,991 quarters of foreign wheat, together with 786 sacks, 105 barrels, and 16 tons of flour: and during the same year, I find among the exports, 399½ quarters of foreign wheat; 939½ quarters of Guernsey wheat: 1708 barrels, and 968 sacks of Guernsey flour (these three articles already enumerated), and 5670 cwt. of Guernsey made biscuit.

The extent of the trade of Guernsey in foreign produce for export or consumption, and in British manufactured goods for export to the colonies, bears no comparison with that of Jersey. The building and fitting out of the shipping of Jersey, is not needed in Guernsey; and the long list of articles of British manufacture, &c., wanted for the extensive trade carried on by the former

island, with our Colonial possessions in north America, scarely enters into the imports and exports of Guernsey.

I have no exact account of the number of clearances in and out; either with, or without cargoes; but I have a statement before me, of the average for the last two years of the number of vessels (exclusive of packets) that arrived in the harbour, or the roadsted,—with cargoes,—or on ballast,—or wind-bound. The number is stated to be 1800: but a very large number of these must have been vessels wind-bound; for the roadstead of Guernsey is a favourite retreat for vessels, from the strong south-west winds that prevail in the channel: and the numerous small French vessels laden with wine, from the southern ports, and bound either for the channel ports, or the Baltic, frequently take advantage of Guernsey roads. Thirty, forty and fifty, or even as many as seventy, at a time, may be seen during the prevalence of a gale, anchored off St. Peter's Port.

There are some little manufactures in Guernsey: cement, bricks, cordage, paper, soap and candles,

are the articles manufactured; but none of them to any great extent. Brick and cement, alone enter into the exports. Of the former, I find 260,000 tale exported last year; and of the latter 804 casks.

CHAPTER VII.

Civil, Military, and Ecclesiastical Government; taxation.

ALTHOUGH the constitution of this island, agrees in its more material points with that of Jersey, there are nevertheless some important differences, which require to be pointed out.

The military government of Guernsey, differs in nothing from that of Jersey; but their civil constitutions are dissimilar. This dissimilarity consists both in the different constitution of the legislative body, and of the Royal Court; as well as in the powers respectively exercised by them. It will be recollected, that the States, or legislative body of Jersey, is composed of the bailiff; the twelve judges; the rectors of parishes; and the constables of parishes. In Guernsey, the elements are the same; but they are differently constituted.

The States of Guernsey, in their legislative capacity, are composed, as in Jersey, of the bailiff,—named by the crown; the rectors of each parish, eight in number,—presented by the governor; the constables,—representatives of each parish; and the jurats: but the jurats, in place of being elected by the people, as in Jersey, are elected by a body called the States of election. This body is in fact the legislative body, with certain additions to its number. These are, two, in place of one constable from each parish; and the douzeniers, 132 in number, elected by the rate payers in the different parishes. The States in their legislative capacity, are in fact a representation of the larger body,—the States of election. The latter, meet only for the purpose of electing the judges: the former, when any business is to be conducted, proceed thus. The writ is issued by the bailiff, for the assembling of the States of deliberation. The object of the meeting is explained to the constables, who respectively call together and consult the douzeniers, upon the matters in agitation; and on the appointed day, the bailiff,

jurats and clergy assemble, together with one constable from each parish,—a delegate as it were, from his parish, who votes according to the instructions he has received.

From what I have said, it will appear that the States of Guernsey, are less a representative body than the States of Jersey,—the jurats being elected not by the people at large, but by a small body, elected by the people. And they are also, a less freely deliberative body: since the constables are situated differently from the other members of the States; and being present, merely as delegates, cannot exercise a free deliberative judgment. Judging however, by the working of the system, Guernsey will not suffer in a comparison with Jersey. Things go on much more smoothly in the former than in the latter island; and the disadvantage, if any there be, is more than counterbalanced by other advantages.

But the distinction between Guernsey and Jersey, in the constitution of the States, applies, and with more important results, to the Royal Court.

I have already, in speaking of Jersey, adverted to the evil consequences of the election of judges by something nearly approaching to univeral suffrage. This not being the case in Guernsey, corresponding advantages are felt. The election of judges,—in any shape objectionable,—is less objectionable when intelligent men are the electors, than when this nondescript franchise is vested in the people at large. I need not point out the difference between a franchise for the election of a maker of laws, and for the election of an expounder and administrator of them. It is certain, that Guernsey profits by the difference between the constitution of her court of law, and that of Jersey; and that not only is justice more impartially and more intelligently administered, but the island at large is not a prey to that spirit of faction which so prevails in Jersey, and which is mainly, if not wholly occasioned by the popular election of judges. There is no doubt, that originally, jurats were elected in Guernsey, as they now are in Jersey. This is proved by insular records of the year 1578; and it is believed that the present

practice originated somewhere about the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The legislative functions of the States of Guernsey, are less ample than they are in Jersey: and between the powers possessed by the States and the Royal Court of Jersey and of Guernsey, there is this difference; that in Guernsey, the Royal Court possesses more power; and the States possess less.

But here Jersey has the advantage in point of principle; for although the States of Jersey are far from being a purely representative body, yet, they are in part representative; and therefore the making of laws, or at least the originating of laws by their body, is more in accordance with a correct principle, than the practice which obtains in Guernsey, where the States possess no power of framing, or introducing laws, or of effecting changes in the constitution,—such powers appearing to be vested solely in the privy council.

In one matter of practice, Jersey has an advantage over Guernsey. The jury is unknown in the latter island. All judicial power resides in the

bailiff and jurats; and not even in criminal cases, is there any limitation of this power. I have not found, that in Guernsey, this want of a jury is complained of; but it is probable, that it requires only the introduction of a better system, to render the people sensible of its advantages.

The ecclesiastical government of Guernsey, is very similar to that of Jersey. The clergy are poorly paid, the small tithes only, with a small tithe of champart, and novals, being all that remain to them. Novals are tithes of land brought under cultivation since the time the monasteries possessed the church revenues. Champart,—as the word itself implies,—a part of a field,—is the whole produce. Quail, in his agricultural report says, "'The feudal right of 'champart,' is here frequently payable; and is a branch of the royal revenue. It is let by the receivers to the same person, and collected with the tithes. In most cases, it is the 12th sheaf. Where both of these rights are in existence, and their produce collected in kind, the discouragement to grain culture by the charge of above 18 per cent on the crop, and

the loss of the straw, and the comparative encouragement to pasture, which pays nothing, must be so decisive, that the corn culture will probably in time be banished " It does not appear however, that the prediction of this writer is verified.

The condition of the church in Guernsey, certainly calls for consideration.

With the exception of the town parish, the rectories of the island are scarcely equal to the smallest English curacy. The great tithes of all corn and flax, the growth of the island, are king's revenue ; and these are appropriated to the governor. To take a part of these, for the island clergy, would, I think, be nothing more than justice : the clergy of Guernsey are hard working men ; and there would certainly be nothing inconsistent with the spirit and meaning and object of church reform, to transfer emoluments from a sinecurist, to those who perform duties— when these duties are now inadequately paid. I would fain hope however, that if any alteration should be judged requisite in the condition of the clergy of these islands, government will see the

propriety of effecting a separation between clerical and legislative duties. This, I have reason to know, is desired by many of the clergy themselves.

Here I must repeat the same observation I made, when speaking of the civil constitution of Jersey,—that the constitutions of these islands, ought not to be left to the management of their own legislatures. Amendments are required, both in constitution and laws, which will never be made by the authorities in either island. It would be absurd in these days, to moot the question as to the powers of the British government; or to discuss the question, whether the right of legislation over these islands is vested in the king as duke of Normandy, or as king of England. It is a favourite opinion in the islands, that in cases where the general interests of the empire are in any way connected with the interest of the island—where, in fact, there is a common interest, —the British parliament may interfere: but that in all local matters concerning the interest of the islands solely, legislation lies with the island institutions and the privy council. I do not see

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the force of this distinction: I look upon it to be the duty of the island legislature, to legislate for the benefit of the whole empire: and if certain changes in the constitution of Jersey or Guernsey, would ensure greater security to property,—more certain or cheaper justice,—or would even have the effect of diminishing feuds, and of advancing civilization; and if there is no hope that the island legislatures will themselves originate these changes,—then, there is sufficient ground for the interference of the British government; and for the adoption of whatever measures may be sanctioned by the British parliament. In these observations, I have Jersey more than Guernsey in view; though I am very far from subscribing to a very general opinion in Guernsey, that there, no reform is needed.

In Guernsey we have an example of a general property tax, for general purposes,—for the support of the poor, as well as for all parish expences, such as lighting, &c. This tax is levied on all property, of every description, whether real or personal, and wherever situated, belonging to

every individual domiciled in the island, (with the exception of real property situated in England or elsewhere on which a rate is paid.) The capital (though it be improductive,—household furniture for instance, or stock in trade,)—forms the rule upon which the annual amount is levied. The whole is estimated by the parish officers at a certain number of quarters of wheat per annum; and the rate is fixed at a certain sum per quarter. In 1833, the tax levied within the town parish was £4800, which was 3 per cent. on the supposed revenue of the rate payers. It is only the supposed revenue from capital that is taxed,—pensions, salaries, professional income, half pay &c., not being rateable.

This, it is evident, is a comprehensive property tax; and the singularity of it is, that it actually comprehends portions of that identical property, upon which the British legislature has not dared to lay a finger,—viz: money in the British funds,—which is thus actually taxed for the support of the poor, &c., of Guernsey, whether it be the property of Guernseymen, or British resi-

dents. They say in Guernsey, that the system works well,—and that there are not many grumblers. They must be good easy men these rate payers of Guernsey. I have now before me, a paper containing the order issued at the parish meeting, upon which the property tax is levied; and I see enumerated as property upon which a tax is levied, not only all the different English securities, but foreign securities also—among which I find Peruvian, Chilian, Colombian, Buenos Ayres, Greek, Mexican, &c.

It may very well be asked how the tax-gatherers ascertain this kind of property? They ascertain it in this way. An individual is asked what property he has; and he must answer; for if he do not, the parish assembly would rate him at what they think he is worth; perfect seers these douzeniers of Guernsey! and unless the individual so rated, choose to appeal, and make oath that he is not worth the property supposed, why then he must pay: but a proof on the part of the douzaine would of course be better than the individual's oath. Property in any funds, is rated at

the price at which the funds chance at that time to be. This is certainly a strange tax. Nothing can be more just, than that property should be assessed for the support of that government within whose jurisdiction the property is situated, and by which it is protected: but to tax the fluctuating, and almost nominal securities of some foreign states, the same as a freehold estate, or to tax them at all, is something very like an outrage upon common sense.

I will not conclude this chapter, without mentioning the subject of education in Guernsey. When speaking of the hospital of Guernsey, I mentioned the school attached to it. This is quite a distinct institution from the free school on Bell's system; which, as in Jersey, is supported by voluntary contribution. It may be said to be flourishing, and instructs between two and three hundred children. In every parish in Guernsey, there is an endowed school; but the endowments are so small, that an addition is made to each of them, from the funds at the disposal of the directors of Elizabeth College. Almost all the

children in the island attend school; and the number of persons in the country parishes, who cannot read and write, is extremely small. There are also Sunday schools in the country parishes, in connexion both with the established church and with the dissenters; supported solely by voluntary contribution. The Sunday school in the town parish, in connexion with the establishment, is attended at present, by upwards of four hundred children.

CHAPTER VIII.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

I shall not waste the time of the reader, by an unprofitable enquiry as to the ancient name of Jersey; it is enough that we know from the itinerary of the emperor Antoninus that in his days, the island was known to the Romans by the name Cæsarea; from which we may conclude that this little spot owned the dominion of Rome, and perhaps had the honour of a visit from Cæsar. In the same itinerary to which I have alluded, Guernsey is called Sarnia. It appears from the researches of those who have thought it worth while to make them, that Jersey bore also, the name of Augia, a name which some think, it bore, before it was known to the Romans, and which it is certain it did bear at a far later date;

for by this name it was made over to a certain archbishop in the year 550, by Childebert, the son of Clovis. This apparent discrepancy is not difficult to account for. A name, like a language, is difficult to change. The decree of a conqueror cannot blot out the name by which a place is known in its vernacular and accustomed language; or as little, effect its appellatiom among surrounding countries; so that when Cæsar, or whoever else it might be, that annexed Jersey to the Roman empire, chose to call it Cæsarea, in place of Augia, it doubtless continued during some ages, perhaps to be better known by its ancient, than its more modern name,—and thus, the archbishop saw no flaw in his title.

I shall pass to the beginning of the tenth century, previous to which period, there is little that is authentic, and nothing certainly, of sufficient interest to deserve record. About the year 912, Charles IV, of France, surnamed the simple, finding himself unable to resist the incursions of the Normans, who, during nearly a century, had proved themselves troublesome and formidable

neighbours, concluded a treaty with Rollo, their chief, by which a large extent of territory was ceded to him, to be held however, as a fief of the French crown,—and the islands adjacent to the Norman coast, were included in this treaty. The title of Rollo, as duke of Normandy, was recognized; and king Charles having, through the representations of the archbishop of Rouen, prevailed upon the Pagan chief, to accept the rite of baptism, gave him his daughter Gilla in marriage, and thus, cemented a treaty, out of which, so many important events afterwards sprung.

But these events, as well as the government of Normandy, by Rollo and his successors, belong to general history; and during the period that elapsed from the establishment of Norman independence under Rollo, till the accession of William, known to us, as "the conqueror," we have no records of the Channel Islands. This includes a period of 154 years, during which, six Norman dukes were lords of these islands; but, as we know from history, that Normandy was well governed during that period,—that her dukes were

respected among cotemporary princes,—and succeeded in raising their dominions to a rank, to which their limited extent could not have entitled them, it is reasonable to conclude, that the islands subject to the Norman dukes, advanced, during that long period, in civilization and prosperity.

I refrain of course, of speaking of the Norman Conquest, unless only, in so far, as the history of the Channel Islands is connected with it. These, although passing with the Norman possessions of William, to the English crown, was afterwards held independent of England, during the short reign of Robert, duke of Normandy, William's son; and were not therefore finally annexed to England, until Henry I. despoiled Robert of his Norman possessions. From that early period, the inhabitants have uninterruptedly continued to be English subjects.

Falle, the accurate historian of Jersey, congratulates his countrymen upon the antiquity of the tie which bound them to England; and contrasts it with the later dates that mark the annexation of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland,—showing, as he

says, "how strong our attachment is to England, which has stood the test of so many ages." Situated as Jersey is, within an arm's length of France, the unbroken connexion which has subsisted so many centuries, between that island and England, shows also, how important it has always been considered, as a dependency of the British crown.

The change in the laws, language and manners, which the Norman conquest introduced in England, could not of course in any way affect these islands. They formed no part of the conquest; their laws and customs were Norman, and therefore remained to them; and the only consequence of William's acquisition of another kingdom, was, that Jersey and Guernsey were protected by a more powerful monarch.

From this period, until the reign of king John, the Channel Islands possess no separate annals. But now important events occurred; and the reign of this monarch, which was on many accounts so disastrous for England, was that, in which the independence and prosperity of the islands were secured.

Any detail of the events which terminated in the conquest of king John's Norman possessions, by Philip of France, would here be misplaced; but in so far as these disputes affected the future condition of Jersey and Guernsey, I must not pass them over in silence. Philip, taking advantage of the weakness of the English monarch, and finding a pretext for quarrel, invaded and subdued Normandy; and, as might be expected, resolved also, to dispossess England of those islands which had belonged to her kings, as dukes of Normandy, and which, now that Normandy had passed from her sceptre, to that of France, ought naturally to follow the fortunes of the fief to which they had pertained, and to which, they were so nearly contiguous.

In this attempt however, the French king was not equally successful. The particulars of the defence of the islands have not come down to us; but we know, that although the French twice made good a landing in Jersey, they were unable to keep their ground in the island, and were twice driven out. It was now, that king John, of

opprobrious memory, suddenly became the active friend to this little corner of his dominions. Why and wherefore, he who had ingloriously stood aloof, when one of the fairest portions of his dominions was wrested from him, shook off his inactivity when these little islands were in danger, it is difficult to understand. Certain it is, however, that king John passed over from England, bringing succours along with him; and actively employed himself during some time, in strengthening the military defences of the islands; and in securing them against the future descents of the enemy.

Nor was this all. As if in gratitude for the valiant defence of the islands, he presented to them civil constitutions, containing extensive, and some, valuable privileges, which have been the basis of all charters and grants from the British crown, down to the present day. Although therefore, the laws of Normandy were still permitted to continue in force, Jersey and Guernsey were in all other respects freed from their connexion with Normandy; becoming a separate appendage of

the English crown, to which, all appeals were now directed to be made, in lieu of those which had up to that separation, been decided by the supreme court of the duchy of Normandy. Falle, to whose work I have already referred, says of John, the benefactor of Jersey, "Unhappy prince! so stained with guilt, and sunk in fame, that even they to whom he was the greatest benefactor, must be ashamed to open their mouths in his commendation. All that can truly be said of him is, that he was the instrument of Providence for our good."

It is stated by historians, and it is probably true, that while Normandy and the Channel Islands were under the same dominion, estates in both were held by the same individual; but it is obvious, that when Normandy was separated from the crown, while at the same time, these islands continued under the English crown, it became necessary for the owners of estates under different dominions, to make a selection. This selection was of course determined by the relative value of the estates; most proprietors naturally

preferring to abandon the property which was the least valuable; and thus, many properties in Jersey, were confiscated. I proceed with my sketch.

From this time, until the reign of Edward I, there is nothing to record; but in the time of that prince, an attempt was made by the French, to recover possession of these islands: it is certain, however, that the attempt was unsuccessful; and so stout was the defence of the natives, and so pleasing to the English monarch, that we have it on record, that rewards were conferred upon those who had distinguished themselves, and provision made for the families of such as had fallen.

During the reign of Edward II, Jersey and Guernsey, although undisturbed by foreign invasion—the connexion of the king with the royal family of France forbidding this,—were subjected to all the evils which were incident to the government of a weak and tyrannical prince. The constitutions of the islands were violated, in many of their most important features; and

many were the private as well as public grievances of which the inhabitants had to complain. But on the accession of Edward III, the people availed themselves of the valuable right of laying their complaints at the foot of the throne, by petition; and immediate redress was obtained from the wiser government of the new king.

But in the reign of Edward III, the disputes which arose between England and France, involved the islands also; and although in this, as in the preceding reigns, the attempts of France were finally frustrated, yet, they were the occasion of many of the calamities which were inseparable from war. A powerful fleet was equipt and sent to sea by the orders of Philip de Valois, and Jersey and Guernsey were successively attacked. The attack on the former island, was however, unsuccessful; the enemy suffering a decided repulse before Mont Orgueil Castle though,—as asserted by Falle, proving successful in subjugating Guernsey.

Here, I am aware, I touch upon a tender point: since the authority of Falle in this matter, is not

recognized in Guernsey. It is certain however, that Falle has justly the reputation of having been a pains' taking, and laborious enquirer; and from the numerous references appended to his volume, appears to have spared no trouble, in order that he might found his history upon authentic documents. The general authenticity of Falle, is therefore an important corroboration of the truth of his assertion; though it must at the same time be conceded, that his authority for the fact in question, is neither Froissart,—nor Sir Robert Cotton,—nor Walsingham,—nor any of those come-atable documents, upon which his facts are generally based,—but is simply stated to be "Ex M.S.S." With this qualification therefore, I state the facts as given by Falle.

But Falle proceeds to relate, not only how Guernsey remained three years in the possession of the French, but details also, the manner of its recapture. He says, that after the decisive naval victory gained by Edward, and so circumstantially detailed by Froissart,—a fleet was placed under the command of Reynold de Cobham, and

another admiral, to attempt the recovery of Guernsey; and that the inhabitants of Jersey learning this, and anxious for the deliverance of the sister island, contributed towards the expedition, the sum of 6400 marks,—a large sum in those days,—and not only so, but gave powerful personal aid,—joining the English fleet, and sharing the glory of restoring the island of Guernsey to the English crown. But here again, we find "Ex M.S.S.": and it is certainly singular, that Froissart, who is particularly full, on the events of these times, and who, not being an Englishman, cannot be supposed purposely to disguise the truth, should neither have mentioned the capture of Guernsey by the French, nor its recapture by the English; and it appears also, from Sir Robert Cotton's abridgement of the records in the Tower, that after the capture of Guernsey by the French, as stated by Falle, a representation was made from the parliament of England to the king, "to keep the sea, and to purvey for the navy, and to defend the isles of Jersey and Guernsey." I do not by any means

question the existence of the manuscripts referred to, by Falle; and have no doubt, but that he considered them entitled to consideration; at the same time, I am entitled to make a distinction between these, and such documents as bear upon them, the stamp of authority.

Not only is the possession of Guernsey by the French, and its recapture with the aid of Jersey, denied by the people of Guernsey,—they also lay claim to having assisted in later times, in rescuing that part of Jersey, which was for a time held by them; and in corroboration of this statement, they point to the laurel leaf on the island arms, which, they say, was obtained in consequence. This claim however, appears to rest solely on tradition; how or when the laurel leaf became a part of the arms of Guernsey, nowhere appears: but the assertion of Falle, respecting the occupation and recapture of Guernsey, being founded at least in some document which so authentic a writer considered to be genuine, is entitled to more weight, than the unsupported tradition which finds believers in Guernsey. But the

dispute is after all very insignificant, and I am almost ashamed of having spent so much time over it.

Subsequently to these events, the Channel Islands enjoyed a season of tranquillity, to be again broken by new hostilities. The French sceptre passed into the hands Charles "the wise;" and he, disatisfied with the treaty which Edward had concluded with France, by which the absolute sovereignty of the Channel Islands was specially conceded by France, renewed hostilities, and, as we find it recorded in English history, dispossessed Edward of his French territories. Turning from these conquests, on the Continent, to the islands which lie near to it; Guernsey was first attacked, under one Yvans; but this enterprize having failed, D^R. Guesclin, constable of France, whose exploits and successes are so prominent in the history of these days, himself undertook the conduct of an expedition against Jersey. He appeared on the shore, with a powerful armament, and with an army, as it is said, of ten thousand men; and the landing of this formid-

able force not being opposed, he laid siege to Mont Orgueil Castle. It is recorded, that the greatest exertions were used on both sides; and that prodigies of valour—such as were scarcely prodigies in those days of chivalry, were performed both by the assailants, and by the defenders of the castle. At length, the conflicting parties, tired of the protracted struggle, entered into a compact, that the castle should surrender, if not relieved by succours from England, before a certain day. Previous to the stipulated time, the succours arrived, and the constable broke up the siege, and withdrew his forces.

Until the reign of Henry VI, there is little to be recorded. During the whole of Richard's reign, these islands were undisturbed; and during the reign of Henry IV, although frequent descents were made upon Jersey, by which great devastations were committed, no formidable attempt was made to reduce it. During the reign too, of Henry V, the islands remained unmolested; for the French monarch was too fully occupied in resisting the designs of so warlike an enemy as

our fifth Henry, to find leisure, or means, for foreign agression. But with the reign of Henry VI, a new chapter in the history of Jersey opens.

It was now, as the reader knows, that England was convulsed by the contention between the houses of York and Lancaster: with these disputes, as affecting England, this sketch has no concern; but it chanced, that Jersey also was affected by them: Margaret of Anjou went over to France, to endeavour to obtain assistance from Louis XI: and this crafty prince, not seeing it to be his interest openly to espouse her cause, yet secretly permitted a treaty to be entered into between the queen and one of his nobles, Pierre de Breze, comte de Maulevrier, a powerful Norman baron, by which he engaged to lead a body of men to her assistance,—while she on her part, consented, that in consideration of such aid, Jersey, and the other islands, should be made over to him and his heirs for ever, to be held independently of England. It is easy to discover in this treaty, and in the part secretly performed in it, by Louis XI, how important a possession these

islands were considered even in those days; for it cannot of course be supposed, that the Norman baron would have been permitted to hold his acquisition, independent of the French crown; and indeed, it can scarcely be doubted, but that he acted from the beginning, under the direction, and for the benefit of the French king.

Pierre de Breze sailed for England, with about 2000 men, and at the same time despatched one Surdeval, to take possession of Jersey, that his reward might be no way contingent upon his services. The governor of Mont Orgueil Castle, who was of the queen's party, had received from her, secret instructions to deliver it up. By a secret agreement with him, the castle was attacked on a particular night,—and he, being,—as it was known he would be,—in bed,—and the garrison unprepared for resistance, the castle changed masters. Soon afterwards, Pierre de Breze arrived from England; and took upon himself the supreme authority,—publishing sovereign acts, and styling himself "Lord of the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and the others adjoin-

ing,—councillor and chamberlain of our sovereign lord the king of France," thus explicitly enough admitting his connexion with Louis.

But the possession of this stronghold, did not carry with it, the island of which it was in these days the chief defence. The inhabitants looked upon themselves as having been betrayed to the French; and were not to be won over by the conciliatory conduct and gracious promises of the Norman lord. The island became divided into two parts, owning separate masters. The six parishes most adjacent to Mont Orgueil Castle, yielded a reluctant obedience to the rule of Pierre de Breze, while the western half of the island, under the influence of Philip De Carteret, lord of St. Ouen, maintained its allegiance to England: and during the long period of six years, Jersey was thus a divided possession.

Edward IV had now ascended the throne of England,—and with his accesson, came the deliverance of Jersey from the presence of the Norman lord. A communication having been opened between De Carteret and Sir Richard Harliston,

vice-admiral of England, who was then at sea with a fleet in the channel, a simultaneous attack on the enemy's stronghold was resolved upon; the castle was invested by night, at the same time by sea and land—and the Normans, after gallantly repelling for some time, the assault of the assailants, perceiving the communication with France cut off, and that there was no longer any hope of maintaining a successful resistance, capitulated.

Falle relates a little romance—for which indeed, he does not pledge his veracity,—that the Normans thinking it possible that a boat might pass undiscovered through the English fleet, but fearful of their design being discovered, caused two boats to be built,—one openly in sight of the enemy, and the other in some hidden spot; and, that their intentions might not become known, "the workmen were ordered so to time their blows, and strike evenly together on the two boats, that from the camp without, no sound might be heard but what would be supposed to come from the boat on the rampart." And Falle

goes on to say, that in this way, the boat which was out of sight was finished, while the workmen were still seen employed in constructing that upon the rampart; and that intelligence of the device was conveyed to the enemy, by a letter, shot with an arrow into the camp, by some concealed friend to the English; and that the boat was intercepted. 'Tis a good fable; but evidently nothing more. It is very unlikely that the masters of Mont Orgueil Castle, should not have possessed a boat; and that the workmen employed in constructing two boats at different places, could have timed their blows, so as to strike in unison, is not improbable only, but impossible. Mont Orgueil Castle however, and the whole island of Jersey, again returned to the dominion of England. Upon this restoration, Jersey received a new charter, in which the services of the people, in having regained possession of the island, were specially acknowledged. Sir Richard Harliston also, was recompensed with the government of the island which his exertions had been partly the means of recovering for his sovereign. What recom-

pense was bestowed upon Philip De Carteret does not appear.

From this period, until the time of Henry VII, the history of Jersey offers nothing worthy of record. That prince, while duke of Richmond, when pushed by adverse fortune, sought a temporary asylum in Jersey; and it was probably in consequence of his sojourn there,—and of the observation he had made of the laws and constitution—for few men were more observant than he,—that when he came to the throne, he enlarged the charter,—and made some changes by modification and restriction, on the powers which had till that time been exercised by the governors.

During the reigns of Henry VII, and of Henry VIII, the people of Jersey suffered much from two causes; the oppression of the governors,—and the oppression of feudalism. The former appears to have been checked by the spirited conduct of Helier De Carteret, then bailiff of Jersey, who pled the cause of his countrymen in the star chamber, and succeeded in obtaining the

removal of the obnoxious governor: the latter,—the oppressions of feudalism, were less easy of cure. So grievous were these, that Henry VII, despairing by any other means, of softening the rigours of the system in Jersey, applied to Pope Sixtus IV, to command by his spiritual power, that forbearance and justice among the lords of Jersey, which the temporal power of the court had failed to produce. A bull was accordingly issued by the pope, excommunicating those who should disobey its injunctions of peace,—an expedient which proved effectual.

From this period, until the accession of the first Charles, the history of these islands offers no incident. During the reign of Edward VI. indeed, a descent was made by the French, on the northern shore of Jersey; but the attempt was successfully repelled; and during the reigns of Mary, Elizabeth and James, the only event that deserves to be recorded, is the settlement in England, of the reformed church of England. I think I have already mentioned in a former chapter, that it was in the reign of Elizabeth, Elizabeth Castle was built.

In the days at which we have arrived, the disputes between the king and the parliament, reached the shores of Jersey. The inhabitants, although for the most part of the king's party, numbered among them, many partisans of the parliament, and hostilities first commenced by the resistance of Sir Philip De Carteret to the demands of the parliamentary commissioners, who had instructions to demand the relinquishment of his government. But while this dispute remained unsettled, the arrival in the island of Captain George Carteret altered the complexion of affairs, and restored tranquillity, if not unanimity. This gentleman, designated by lord Clarendon, a man of great eminency and reputation in naval command, and then comptroller of his majesty's navy, ranked nevertheless so high in the opinion of the parliament, that when the fleet, to act in opposition to the king, was entrusted to the earl of Warwick, Captain Carteret was offered the situation of vice-admiral. He, however, would not accept a command, the duties of which would have involved a sacrifice of principle,

and having good reason to know the state of public opinion in Jersey, he retired thither, and at once declared for the king; who knighted him and conferred upon him the government of the island. Under his authority, royalty was again fully recognized; and not content with the re-establishment of the king's power within the island, he fitted out a squadron of ten vessels, which proved a most serious annoyance to the channel trade, and did good service to the king's cause.

It was now also, that prince Charles, finding himself unable to cope with the parliamentary troops in the west of England, whither he had been sent, bethought himself of the favourable disposition of the people of Jersey, and the natural defences of the island; and leaving the Scilly isles, to which he had at first been forced to retreat, he sailed for Jersey, where he arrived on the 17th of April, 1646, and was received with every testimony of respect and affection. He was accompanied by Sir Edward Hyde, afterwards the great lord Clarendon, and by a numerous re-

tinue of nobles and gentlemen, sharers of the various fortunes of the prince: but his sojourn in Jersey, extended to only two months,—the entreaties of his mother having prevailed with him, to leave Jersey, and retire into France. Lord Clarendon however,—a greater man,—remained in the island two years, and there wrote, as I have already mentioned, a part of his celebrated work.

When the faults of Charles, and the intemperance of his enemies, had brought that unhappy prince to the scaffold, Charles II. was immediately proclaimed in Jersey. I need not follow the footsteps of the nominal king, through danger and disaster, to second exile; but meeting with no succour, and little respect on the Continent, we find him again casting his eyes upon the little sea-girt spot, where he had in another time of danger, been received and sheltered; and accordingly, the king, and his little destitute, but gay and wandering court, reached Jersey in the autumn, and remained in the island until the following spring, receiving from his subjects, all those tokens of respect, which it were to be wished he

had better merited. Falle, whom I wish always to mention with respect, speaks in raptures of the royal visit; and tells us how that "he did not disdain invitations and entertainments from our little gentry." But, what is more interesting, if true, he is said to have become so well acquainted with the island, as to have drawn a map of it with his own hand; which is said to be now in a cabinet of curiosities at Leipsic. It is also said, that soon after the arrival of the king in the island, Sir George Carteret assembled the States, that a levy might be made on the inhabitants, who it appears, were so much enamoured of royalty, and so flattered by the royal presence, that £633, a considerable sum in those days, and to be subscribed in so small an island, was raised and presented to the prince, to whom, the act of loyalty was doubtless extremely acceptable. It is worthy of remark however, that Jersey, of Norman origin, and French in its language, and in many of its customs, should have ever maintained such staunch loyalty towards the English crown. Loyal acts and loyal feelings, may sometimes be ex-

pended on unworthy objects,—but loyalty, directed by reason, is a virtue notwithstanding.

Exasperated by the continued loyalty of the Channel Islands,—for Guernsey no less than Jersey, remained steadfast in the cause,—and by the annoyance offered to trade by the squadron which had been fitted out, the English parliament resolved upon reducing them. A fleet was accordingly despatched in October, 1681, under the command of the well known Blake; with a well appointed military force under the orders of Major General Haines. Several fruitless attempts were made to effect a landing: Sir George De Carteret, the steady friend of the monarchy, gallantly repulsing the enemy on every point. But the small force under his command, worn out by the necessity of being night and day under arms,—and by their constant exertions in repelling the attempts of the invaders, were unable to continue longer, a successful opposition; and favoured, as we are told, by a night of unusual darkness, the parliamentary troops effected a landing in St. Ouen's bay. Opposition

in the open country to so superior a force was impossible; and the governor therefore confined his operations to the defence of the strongholds. Two of these however, the fort of St. Aubin's and Mont Orgueil, surrendered almost without resistance; and Sir George De Carteret shut himself up, in Elizabeth Castle, with his little band of between three and four hundred fighting men, and accompanied also, by some of the principal inhabitants. Here, an obstinate defence was maintained; but the castle being commanded by the eminence upon which Fort Regent is now built, it was bombarded from that quarter; and after a time, Sir George and his little garrison were reduced to the utmost distress.

In this extremity, it was resolved to make application to Charles, who was then in France, in the hope that succours might be obtained from that kingdom; but these being refused by the French minister, the king advised De Carteret to capitulate. This advise, so brave a man as De Carteret was unwilling to follow, and for a while, he concealed the king's message from his

followers, and continued the defence of the castle. At length however, encreasing difficulties showed him the necessity of yielding to circumstances, and an honourable capitulation was entered into. This castle, the loyal historian of Jersey, firmly believes to have been the last of the king's strongholds that yielded to his enemies.

Guernsey was reduced at the same time, after an obstinate resistance.

There is reason to believe, on the authority of authentic documents, that while Charles resided in France, it was at one time in contemplation to mortgage or sell the islands of the channel to France. Clarendon says, "his majesty was so strict and punctual in his care of the interest of England, when he seemed to be abandoned by it, that he chose rather to suffer those places of great importance to fall into Cromwell's power, than to deposit them upon any conditions into French hands, which he knew would never restore them to the just owner, what obligations soever, they entered into." And Falle says, "It cannot be denied but the king had it in his power

to have so disposed of these islands, if he had pleased." If it were worth while, it would be no difficult matter to show how the loyalty of the historian has here blinded his judgment. Let the fact however stand without comment. The islands were not pledged or sold,—and at the restoration, Charles again found them subject to his sceptre.

When this event took place, Jersey experienced the generosity of the monarch, who had there experienced so much kindness; and where his cause had been so stoutly and so perseveringly defended. Sir George Carteret was named vice chamberlain of the household; and obtained a seat in the privy council. The island was confirmed in its privileges; the military defences of the island were strengthened; and he presented to it, a mace, to be carried before the magistrates on certain occasions; bearing the following inscription, which may prove curious, and will at all events be new to the English reader.

Tali haud omnes dignitur honore.

Carolus Secuudus, magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex serenissimus; affectum regium erga

insulam de Jersey (in quâ, bis habuit receptum, dum cæteris ditionibus excludenetur) hocce monumento verè regio posteris consecratum voluit. Jussitque ut deinceps balivis præferatur, in perpetuam memoriam fidei, tùm augustissimo parenti Carolo primo, tùm suæ majestati sævientibus bellis civilibus, servatæ a viris clarissimis, Philippo et Georgio De Carteret, equitibus auratis, hujus insulæ baliv. et reg. præfect.

Many as were the faults and vices of the merry monarch, he appears, in his recollection of Jersey, in the light of a grateful man.

These islands now enjoyed a long and uninterrupted tranquillity. It is stated indeed by some writers, that during the reign of Charles II, Jersey was in danger from a secret and treacherous design on the part of France; that the town of St. Malo offered to defray all the charges of an expedition to subjugate the island, on condition that she should be reimbursed by the confiscated estates. But such a story is evidently entitled to no credit. We must now pass to the reign of George III, in which there are some important passages in the history of Jersey; and here it will be necessary to speak somewhat more in detail.

On the 1st of May, 1779, just on the breaking out of war between France and England, a hostile

fleet appeared in St. Ouen's bay. This armament was freighted with a force of no fewer than from five to six thousand men, commanded by the prince of Nassau. On a landing being attempted, a small body of the seventy-eighth regiment, supported by the island militia and some artillery, hastened to the point, and the enemy intimidated by the prospect of so warm a reception returned to their ships, and made sail for St. Brelade, where they next threatened a landing. Here also, the same determination to oppose a landing being manifested, the attempt was relinquished.

Jersey however, was too much coveted by France, not to be the object of new attempts. A second, was frustrated by the French fleet being attacked and destroyed, by Sir James Wallace; but the third and last, and most formidable attempt requires to be spoken of more in detail.

On one of the days at the close of December, 1780, two thousand French troops were embarked at Granville, under the orders of baron de Rullecourt, who, it is believed, calculated upon carrying the island by a coup de main,—conceiv-

ing that at the merry time of Christmas, the islanders would be occupied with their festivities; and perhaps even, overcome by inebriety. It was stormy weather when the French armament quitted Granville; and by the separation of some, and the loss of others, of his transports, his force was reduced to twelve hundred—and with these troops, after having been forced to put into port, and having been there detained several days by stress of weather, he finally set sail on the 5th of January, 1781, and made the shore of Jersey about an hour before midnight. The part of the coast at which he chanced to arrive,—impelled thither by the current,—for it was not the spot he would have selected; was "Le Banc de Vielet," a ledge of low rocks, only exposed at ebb tide, lying at the S.E. corner of the island. The tide was unpropitious, and the landing dangerous; several of the smaller vessels were wrecked; and scarcely more than 700 were safely disembarked. It is said, that Rullecourt had in his service a Jerseyman, who was well skilled in the difficulties of the coast, and indeed, it is improbable,

that without such assistance, any successful landing could have been effected.

The French having taken possession of a small battery of guns, and leaving a detachment with the boats, to secure a retreat in case of need, marched towards St. Helier, where they arrived without interruption, or even discovery. Entering the town, they took possession of the market place, killing the sentinel, and surprising the guard; and at daybreak, the inhabitants found the market place filled with French soldiers; and the town, apparently in peaceable possession of an enemy. The details of the event with which I am at present occupied, are given so fully, and, as far as I have ascertained, so accurately, in Mr. Plees' history of Jersey, that I make his narrative of facts, the basis of my detail.

Major Moses Corbet, was at this time lieutenant governor of Jersey; and the enemy having surrounded his house, surprised him in bed, and made him prisoner. It appears however, that he contrived notwithstanding, to send intelligence of the events that had taken place, to the different

regiments which were quartered in the island. Rullecourt, it would appear, was resolved to make the most of the advantage he had obtained; and knowing how impossible it was, to retain it, with the handful of men under him, by mere force of arms, he had recourse to stratagem. He represented to Major Corbet, the inutility of resistance: he informed him that he had disembarked 4000 men, at different points, two battalions of whom were in the neighbourhood of the town; and that he had already made prisoners of the British troops stationed at La Roque: and he at the same time drew up and produced articles of capitulation, which he laid before Major Corbet for his signature. Though stratagem is considered fair in war, the rule will not, I think, cover deliberate falsehood; and this is the only apology that can be offered for Major Corbet's compliance with the demand of Rullecourt; for he of course never could for a moment have imagined, that a French general would attempt to obtain an advantage by means so unworthy. At the same time too, that Rullecourt laid the

capitulation before Major Corbet, he declared his intention of burning the town and shipping, and of putting the inhabitants to the sword, in case his terms were not instantly acceded to. This declaration however, in place of weighing with the governor in favour of yielding compliance, ought to have given rise to suspicion; not only because such a threat was unusual; but because, if the French general had, as he asserted, so superior a force in the island,—and had already disarmed a part of the British soldiery, there would have been no necessity for this mode of proceeding. There was altogether too, a secrecy about the manner of conducting the negociation, and a haste, that might naturally have excited doubt. In fact, Major Corbet appears to have been a man deficient in that strength of mind, as well as in that military penetration which would have enabled another differently gifted, to escape the snare which was laid for him. It is true, that Major Corbet at first refused to sign the capitulation; but when Rullecourt, laying, as it is said, his watch on the table, said, if the capitulu-

lation were not signed within half an hour, he would carry his threats into effect, he yielded. The king's advocate however, and the constable, who it would appear were also prisoners, refused their signatures. At the same time that this important affair was settled, the French general issued a proclamation, in the name of the king of France, requiring the submission of the islanders, and containing the usual promises of protection, and threats of punishment: and produced also, a commission from his master, appointing him governor of Jersey. The shops were ordered to be opened,—and business to proceed as usual; and in fact, the new governor appears to have acted, as if he were master of the island.

In this proceeding however, he had calculated upon the effect of Major Corbet's order, which had been despatched to the different corps, desiring them to remain in their quarters; as well as on the notice of capitulation, which he had sent to Elizabeth Castle; though it is difficult to conceive, what reasonable expectations Rullecourt could have had, of long maintaining his advan-

tage with the trifling force under his command. It appears however, that the orders despatched by Major Corbet, did not produce the effects which the French general calculated upon. The officers of the different corps, understanding that Major Corbet was a prisoner, did not consider his orders binding: accordingly, they advanced upon the town,—and the island militia also, promptly assembling, joined the regulars.

After Major Corbet had sent notice of capitulation to the castle, a part of the French troops headed by the commander,—who, it is said, held Major Corbet by the arm,—left St. Helier to take possession of the stronghold; but upon the column advancing, the discharge of cannon showed Rullecourt, that Major Corbet's order had not been obeyed. Rullecourt was forced to retire: and a second officer was despatched to the castle, with a written copy of the capitulation, and a peremptory order from Major Corbet, to surrender to the French. But this order was alike disregarded.

Meanwhile, the whole of the regular forces,

together with the island artillery, all under the command of Major Pierson of the 95th regiment, upon whom the chief command had devolved, were concentrated on the heights above the town; and soon after, they began to descend Gallows' Hill,—an eminence within half a mile of the town, to the westward. It now became apparent to Rullecourt, that he was not to succeed by stratagem; though he still made one more effort; for on the British troops advancing, he sent an officer to Major Pierson, to endeavour still to effect the capitulation. A truce of half an hour was acceded to; and at the same time the adjutant of the 95th regiment was sent to demand the liberation of the lieutenant governor. When introduced to the presence of Rullecourt and Major Corbet, the latter was asked, if he were prisoner, to which he is said to have replied in the negative,—a reply incapable of being justified on any ground: and all hope of negociation being now ended, Rullecourt prepared to effect his purpose more creditably to a soldier, than by the falsehood and stratagem which had proved unavailing.

It is recorded, that the island militia at this time could scarcely be restrained from going into action; and that Major Pierson found it difficult to govern their ardour. The restraint imposed upon them, was however, necessary; for several companies had been despatched to take possession of the hill on the other side of the town,—that upon which Fort Regent is now erected. The time for an advance, however, arrived; the British and island troops entered the town, marching directly towards the Market-Place, where the French were posted; and Major Pierson, while leading on his troops, received a wound which proved instantly fatal. For a moment, the enemy had the advantage; but the British troops speedily rallied, and drove the enemy before them. Rullecourt, for a while continued the combat, holding, as it is said, the lieutenant governor by the arm: but his troops were everywhere repulsed; he himself received a mortal wound; and the remnant surrendered themselves prisoners.

Thus terminated this attempt,—which cost

many brave men their lives, and Major Corbet his honour. He was shortly afterwards brought to a court martial, and superseded, as he deserved.

To this little sketch I have nothing to add. During the long wars in which England was subsequently engaged, the Channel Islands, although often menaced, were never attacked. The mighty projects of Napoleon left him little leisure for small designs, and he who contemplated the subjugation of Britain, may be supposed to have overlooked spots, which he is said to have designated stepping stones.

ALDERNEY.

ALDERNEY.

CHAPTER I.

Difficult access to Alderney; narrative of the voyage; terrors of the race, and the swinge.

NOTHING can be more different, than the associations which the mention of Alderney gives rise to, in the mind of an Englishman, and in the mind of an inhabitant of any of the Channel Islands. To the former, it calls up images of green tranquil meadows, dotted with innumerable cattle—those beautiful little cows, so much prized in the English dairy,—with pleasant thoughts of milk, and cream, and butter, and pails, and milking maids. To the latter, it is instantly associated with images of a very opposite description,—with the fearful "race of Alderney,"

and as much dreaded "swinge;" with unstemmable tides, and conflicting currents, and rocks, and storms, and perils of every description. Let it be my task, to arbitrate among these conflicting fancies.

It is certainly most true, that Alderney is difficult of access: I myself made several attempts to reach it, without success; and it often happens, that one is detained in the island for weeks, owing to the difficulty and danger of navigating its shores, unless in certain favourable states of wind and tide. The race, is on the south side, between Alderney and the French coast; the swinge on the north side, between Alderney and another island, called Berhou; and through both of these, the tide runs from six to seven knots an hour. The swinge too, which must be passed by all vessels from England, or the other islands, is narrow, and full of rocks; and the coast of Alderney on both sides, is a congregation of projecting cliffs and isolated rocks. The tides and currents too, are not only impetuous; but require to be thoroughly understood; so that Alderney

can only be approached with safety, under the guidance of a skilful mariner; and under a favourable union of wind and tide.

These difficulties have certainly in no small degree, affected the prosperity of Alderney: strangers are naturally unwilling to run unnecessary risks; and the steam vessels, which ply between England, and the other Channel Islands, grudgingly consent to call at Alderney; and it has even occasionally happened, that passengers, trusting to the qualified promise of the master, have been carried to England, or to the other islands,—the approach to Alderney having been found to be impossible.

I made out my voyage to Alderney in the month of March; not certainly the most favourable month for excursions in the channel; but after a succession of gales from the west, the wind shifted to the east; and thus, affording a tolerable prospect of fine weather, I resolved to take advantage of it. I hired at Guernsey, a roomy open boat, of 14 feet keel, and manned by three fishermen, for which I paid £2 10s.; and started with fair wind

and tide, soon after breakfast. The usual conveyance, is by an Alderney cutter, of about 40 tons burden; three of which, trade between the islands; but I have reason to think an open boat, of good dimensions, manned by sailors familiar with the navigation, is not much less secure; and it has besides, the advantage of oars, in case of wind or tide failing.

During the first half of our voyage, the light breeze with which we started, continued; but it then began to fall short; and at length we had to take to our oars, with a dead calm: and with only two oars, and a heavy boat, no very rapid progress could be made. Although however, the prospect of an early arrival, and day light through the swinge, was none of the brightest,—the prospect around was beautiful. The whole expanse of the sea, was one field of chrystal, slightly undulating; and perfectly smoothe, unless where here and there, a little wandering air just rumpled the surface into almost imperceptible wavy lines, —and then dying away, again left it like a mirror. Sometimes these little airs travelled across our

path, fluttering in our sails, which we kept up, to catch every help; and then for a few moments, the gurgling sound would tell that we were making a little way; and the sailors would rest on their oars,—and wipe their foreheads, and whistle to the winds, which, as our poet says, "came not." Alderney yet a far way off, presenting a bold square front, lay before us; yet farther behind, and scarcely perceptible, Guernsey; and Sark: to the right, in a long low curve, stretched the French coast, terminating in Cape La Hague; and about six miles to the left, were seen the Casket light houses, whose white towers, erected on the formidable rocks against whose perils they are the guarantee, seemed like dwellings, resting on the ocean. There is a feeling of great solitariness, and even, of solemnity begotten, in looking around from the cross bench of a small boat, almost out of sight of land.

I dare say the boatmen felt nothing of this. As the sun got lower, they tugged the harder,—anxious as they said, to make Alderney before dark; not on their account, but on mine; for

supposing I had heard a good deal of the dangers of Alderney, they probably concluded, that I was not perfectly at my ease; and they kept now and then repeating to me, in their own indifferent French, "Monsieur, jour et nuit, c'est la même chose pour nous,"—that was to say, that they knew the navigation so well, that it signified nothing whether it was dark or light when they got into the swinge. For my part, never having seen the swinge, I felt no great dread of it; and it was so calm and mild, and beautiful, that darkness seemed scarcely to have anything of terror in it.

Notwithstanding all the exertions we made, it fell almost dark before we reached the coast; and when we entered the swinge, there was just light enough to see that its dangers had not been exaggerated. Suddenly, from the calmest water we were plunged into an ugly plashy sea; dancing and breaking, as if there were rocks not a foot from the surface. I was just able to see, that in some places, there were currents, like cataracts; and in others, singular wide hollows and eddies like whirl pools; while at no great

distance, I could occasionally perceive the black heads of rocks, appearing and disappearing, as the swell of the troubled sea rose and fell among them; and still the boatmen continued their consolatory sentence "jour et nuit, c'est la même chose pour nous." It soon became as dark, as it is on any March moonless night; but I felt secure in the knowledge and skill of the boatmen: and about an hour after dark, something black, and square, and high, appeared on our bow, which turned out to be the back of the harbour, which we soon after—but apparently with great straining at the oars—safely entered: and from what the boatmen now told me, I had reason to congratulate myself, not on escape from danger, —for I do not suppose there was any; but from considerable inconvenience. Owing to our protracted voyage, the tide had already began to turn; and if we had been half an hour later, or had not been favoured by a light breeze which sprung up when it fell dark, no efforts could have carried us into Alderney; and we should have been obliged to have submitted to be carried

again through the swinge; and to have passed the night as we best could.

Alderney does not boast of inns, there is indeed, the "Jolly Tar" close to the harbour; but I had understood, there was a respectable lodging house in the town, which lies up a steep ascent, about half a mile from the harbour: and thither I accordingly walked, preceded by my boatmen, who had charge of the mail from Guernsey. I had no great difficulty in finding out the house I was in quest of; and by the aid of a good fire, a cup of tea and a bit of bacon, the terrors of the swinge, were speedily forgotten.

CHAPTER II.

The harbour; proposed naval station; early habits in Alderney; the town of St. Anne, and its population; ride into the country; general aspect of Alderney; small properties; husbandry; the common; vraic gathering, and the solemnities attending it; the Alderney cow; other animals.

NEXT morning betimes, I began my inspection of the island, by walking down to the harbour, which the darkness had prevented me from seeing, the night before. It is called the Braye, and is very far from being either safe, or convenient. The smallest boats are attached to the pier, by strong chain cables; for so great is the agitation of the sea within the harbour, that the safety of the little vessels could not otherwise be secured. In stormy weather indeed, the sea makes a breach right over the pier into the harbour; and the effects of this are seen, in the appearance of the

pier, which seems like a congregation of rough stones; for all attempts to fill up the interstices, and render the surface smoothe, have been found unavailing, since with the first storm, everything is washed clean away, and the pier restored to its original nakedness.

There has been some talk of constructing a deep water harbour, fit for the reception of frigates, on another part of the coast: and certainly, if any of the Channel Islands are to be chosen for the construction of a naval station, as a defence of the Channel trade, Alderney is the most advantageously situated. Neither of the other islands could offer so effectual a check upon Cherbourg, which lies within two or three hours' sail of Alderney; and in case of a blockade of that part of the French coast, the strong north-easter, which if it chanced to rise, would drive the fleet to England, would then only force it into the Alderney station,—ready on a favourable change of wind, to resume its station in a couple of hours. It has been ascertained, that a sum of £100,000 would be required, to construct a deep water harbour at

Alderney ; and it is obvious, that the construction of such a work, would be utterly useless, unless a strong fortress were also erected to protect it. Alderney, not otherwise worth the cost of an expedition to capture it, would, with its deep water harbour, become an object worthy of acquisition to France ; and if we may suppose that the cost of a fortress might be one sixth of the cost of Fort Regent, Jersey, these two works could not be constructed in Alderney, at an expense to the English nation, of less than from £250,000 to £300,000. It is certain however, that if the British government should ever seriously contemplate the establishment of a naval station in the Channel Islands, it is Alderney, upon which the distinction must be conferred.

The people of Alderney are an early people. When I returned from my walk to the harbour, about half-past seven, I found my breakfast waiting, and the family breakfast already over. The usual hours among the middle classes, are, breakfast a little after seven ; dinner at twelve ; tea at four ; supper at half-past seven, and bed at nine, or but a little later.

In many respects the town of St. Anne, put me in mind of St. Hubert, in the forest of Ardennes; both in the manners of the people, and in the aspect of the town. In both, the hours of rising, eating, and going to bed are the same. In both, the respectable inhabitants may be seen strolling about in loose surtouts, and some with caps, in place of hats. In both, the respectable inhabitants consist of the same class of persons, —the few local magistrates, or judges, the king's officers, the minister, and the surgeon. Then there are two or three tradespeople, and the post-mistress,—a most important personage in a community like this: and the two or three officials: and so far, the resemblance is complete. In walking up the street too, and looking about me, I almost fancied myself in St. Hubert. The pavement is in much the same condition; the houses are much upon a par. Every good house, —and these are thinly scattered—is sure to belong to a judge, or an official: and although one misses the stately cathedral of St. Hubert—so much apparently out of place there,—government

house in St. Anne's—almost as stately an edifice, —appears to be quite as much out of place there.

There is one peculiarity about St. Anne's, Alderney. The town is rather a congregation of farm houses, than a town. Almost every other house has its yard, byres and out-houses; and the reason of this is, that all, or almost all, the inhabitants of the island, live in the town; and consequently, being with scarcely an exception, land-owners, they are forced to have much the same establishments, which farmers have, who live in the country. This makes the town appear larger than it is: and it has also the effect of making it seem particularly deserted; for every body's business lies in the country; and at a time when field labour is required, scarcely any one is left in town. But before speaking of the people, I must carry the reader with me into the country, that we may look at the general external features of the island.

The general aspect of Alderney is less pleasing than curious. There used to be,—and the distinction is still partly correct—the cultivated and the

uncultivated part of the island. Of the latter I shall speak by and bye; but my first ride, was over the cultivated land,—or as it is called in Alderney, the Blaye. The appearance of this part of the island is singular,—owing to the very minute properties, and the odd way in which the proprietors have sown their crops. It is all laid out in narrow stripes of different sorts of grain; and in lucerne, potatoes, clover, tares, &c. These lie in all different directions, straight across, and transversely; and to so great an extent has the division of property descended, that in looking at a proprietor ploughing his strip, it is difficult to see how he will find room to turn his plough on his own land. The ploughs which I saw at work, were small wheel ploughs, worked by three horses and two men.

The total absence of farm houses and cottages, occasioned by all the inhabitants living in the town,—and the almost total absence of trees or plantations of any kind, give to the island, a bare and deserted aspect. Still, under a bright sun, there is beauty any where; and the spangled

grass, and furze hedges, covered with their bright and fragrant blossoms; and the song of innumerable larks; and the pretty cows tethered among their clover, were sufficient for any traveller, unless for the churl who can walk from Dan to Beersheba, and say, "it is all barren." I cannot understand however, why Alderney is so barren of wood,—unless it be, that the properties are too small to permit any systematic planting. It cannot arise from the difficulty of getting wood to grow; for the elevation of the table land of Serk is greatly higher than that of Alderney; and trees grow upon it abundantly and luxuriantly.

In the course of my ride, I visited the remains of an edifice, which in Alderney, is called Essex Castle, because they say it was built by the noble and unfortunate earl of that name,—a tradition, which I believe has little or nothing to support it. I also caught glimpses of rock scenery in several quarters. It is striking, and worth a nearer visit; but as the rock scenery of Serk is greatly superior, and as in the account of Serk which follows this, I speak of it at some length,

I refrain from enlarging upon the rock scenery of Alderney.

I have mentioned the uncultivated part of Alderney. This was formerly a common, which extended over nearly one half of the island; and was used for pasture, as well as for the cutting of turf for fuel. This common has lately been inclosed and partitioned among the whole inhabitants. About one-third of it is already in a state of cultivation; and it is believed, that another third is capable of being cultivated. There cannot be a doubt, but that this measure will be productive of benefit to Alderney: and it is certain, that since its adoption, the population has considerably encreased. Government has reserved to itself, parts of the common; particularly, one elevated mount of considerable extent, at the north-west point of the island, with the view of constructing a fortification upon it. I believe this mount commands the point where there has been talk of constructing a naval station.

The agriculture of Alderney, I should say is quite upon a level with that of Jersey and Guern-

sey; and the crops of all kinds are excellent. I understood that no crops of lucerne can be finer than those raised in Alderney, and that too, upon the poorest sandy soil; upon which also, potatoes are largely cultivated; and the people of Alderney assert, that their potatoes bring a higher price in the English market, than those of either Jersey or Guernsey, owing to their superior quality. The wheat grown in Alderney, is not sufficient for its consumption; though it is probable, that the cultivation of the common, may lead to a different result. Parsnips and barley are both cultivated,—though not to any great extent; and oats are scarcely cultivated at all. There is a good deal of spade husbandry in Alderney; and the land, which is for the most part of a light sandy soil, is very frequently manured, chiefly with fresh sea weed,—which however, is sometimes mixed with earth and stable dung. It is singular, that the Alderney people do not burn their vraic, especially since the division of the common has restrained the free use of turf as a fuel. It is also singular,

that cow dung is not unfrequently employed as fuel.

Vraic, as a manure, is quite as much prized in Alderney, as in the sister islands; and vraic-gathering is as important an affair. Indeed, it is ushered in with greater solemnity in Alderney, than in either Jersey or Guernsey. The evening before that appointed for the vraic gathering, the church bell rings, at six o'clock; which is the signal for all who are interested in vraic-gathering (i.e.) all the inhabitants of the island who are owners of land,—to assemble in the church-yard; and there, the important point is discussed, whether all are ready to commence the next morning. Any sufficient cause that might prevent any one individual from joining in the vraic-gathering, would be held a sufficient reason for postponing the day; because the liberty of gathering vraic, is too valuable a privilege, to be unequally enjoyed. If no one demurs, the day is considered to be fixed; and all retire, to prepare, by an early retirement to rest, for the labours of the next morning. It chanced to be vraic-gathering, when

I visited Alderney; and at high water, in the morning, the great bay fronting the south, was lined with a dense semi-circle of eager islanders, waiting the moment, when the retreating tide, should leave the rich prize within their reach.

But it is time that I should say a few words of the Alderney cow, by which indeed, the island is chiefly know in England.

In my first ride into the country, my notions of Alderney were disappointed. I did not see, as I had expected, the little cows everywhere dotting the land. The part of the country however, into which I rode, was not that where they are mostly to be found; and besides, their stature being so very low, the stone walls which form so many of the enclosures, conceal them from the view. In my subsequent rides however, I often paused and drew up my horse, to look over the walls, at these pretty little creatures, whose beauty and qualities, have immortalized their native island. My attention was particularly directed to some acknowledgedly fine specimens; and to me, they seemed well to deserve the encomiums that were

passed upon them. I found it however, everywhere admitted, that there is but very little distinction between the Alderney, and the best specimens of the Jersey cow. The Guernsey cow, though also of the same breed, is a larger animal; and in the opinion of many, finer though certainly not more comely to the eye.

I had been told in the other islands, that the true Alderney breed, such as I should find it in Alderney, is black and white: but I did not find that the people of Alderney adopted this criterion of purity of breed. Red and white, and brown and white, I found equally common; and the choicest specimens shown to me, were white, and reddish chocolate colour; but not with too great a preponderance of white. The Alderney people look more to the short curved horns, than to the colour: and it was stated to me by a gentleman who had paid great attention to the subject, that there is no indication of a true Alderney cow so certain, as prominent sparkling eyes: and in this, the Alderney cow offers a strong contrast to other cows; for the eye of a cow, is generally of a tranquil and sleepy expression.

The cow in Alderney is almost invariably tethered, as in the other islands; and is milked three times a day. Many instances of extraordinary produce came to my knowledge. I heard of two cows, which produced each 10 lbs. of butter per week, 18 oz. to the lb. I even heard of another, which had produced 14 lbs. of butter per week. Major Baines, the present governor of Alderney, to whom I had the pleasure of presenting a letter of introduction, and whose kindness I am happy to acknowledge, informed me, that he had a cow, which yielded twenty-five quarts of milk per day. These are certainly extraordinary instances of productiveness; but my general enquiries do not warrant me in asserting, that the cow now met with in Alderney, is any way superior, as a milcher, to the cow of Jersey and Guernsey. If it be fair to draw any inference from the quality of the butter, it would be an unfavourable one for Alderney, where I found no butter equal to that of Guernsey.

Scarcely any observation is required respecting the other domestic animals. The horses appear

to be indifferent; but in the rearing of hogs, the islanders are very successful. I was informed, that it is no uncommon occurrence for a hog to weigh more than a well fed cow: but as this might be a proof of the smallness of the cow, as well as of the size of the hog, I may state, that the weight of some of the hogs has reached 500 pounds. I saw more sheep on Alderuey, than on Jersey or Guernsey: they are small, rough, and darked faced; and appeared to be indifferently attended to.

CHAPTER III.

The people of Alderney: their character and habits; improvidence, and feasting; fishing; expenditure and mode of live: how time is passed; party spirit, and litigiousness; the climate of Alderney; health and disease, and rate of mortality.

In this chapter I proceed to speak of the people. I have already said, that properties in Alderney, are extremely small; and here, where there is not as in Jersey, or even in Guernsey, a regular trade to take off superabundant hands, and to offer some temptation to those who have not a sufficient patrimonial inheritance, the minute division of property leads to bad results; for, where no patrimony whatever, can possibly descend to a child, he is sent out into the world, to push his fortune; whereas, where there is some inheritance of land, however trifling, one is not fond of deserting it; and when after some expe-

rience, it is found, that the owner cannot be supported by it, he falls into whatever calling is the readiest and most likely to better his fortune. This happens unfortunately to be the smuggling trade; for Alderney has none other.

In the other islands, few are either very rich, or very poor; but in Alderney, for the word, "few," nobody, may be substituted. Scarcely any one possesses more than thirty vergées of land; and the owners live almost exclusively, on the produce of their soil. There is one striking difference in the character of the inhabitants of Alderney, and of the other Channel Islands. The parsimony of Jersey and Guernsey, is nowhere to be seen. Indeed, in place of parsimony, improvidence rather, is a characteristic of the people. This, I should think, is to be ascribed to the effect of the smuggling trade. "Light come light go," is the rule of action; and the pound that is easily earned,—easily at least, to those who are accustomed to a sea life—is spent on any holiday afternoon. This regardlessness of expenditure, certainly enters into the general character of the

people; for although all are not smugglers, yet many have been at one time or another, indirectly connected with the trade; and besides, the example of profuseness is contagious; and I learnt from undeniable authority, that nothing is so rare, as to find the country people grow rich by saving, as they are wont to do in the other islands. The great occasion for spending, is at weddings. As much is spent at such time in one day, as would support the new married pair for a year. All relations are bidden to the feast; and when I mention, that an individual lately died, leaving behind him, four hundred and sixteen nephews, nieces, grand nephews and grand nieces, it will easily be credited that such entertainments are not given for nothing.

Some of the inhabitants unite the trade of agriculture, with that of fishing; but this latter branch is not very lucrative, nor indeed, very successful. The fish chiefly caught, are rock fish, whiting and conger eel,—considerable quantities of which, are salted and laid up for winter stock. The lobster too, is also abundant, and forms an

article of export to England. They are not unusually purchased by contract for the London market, at sixpence a piece, if they are eleven inches long; and for all under that size, the half of this price is given.

The mode of life in Alderney, is primitive; though I should say, less so than in Serk, or even than in the inland parts of Jersey and Guernsey, which may easily be accounted for from the fact of all the inhabitants being congregated in one place; by which, improved habits are acquired, by the influence and example of those who practise them. The absence too of that parsimony which is so influential in the other islands, makes the formation of superior habits easier; and it is a fact, that the "soupe à la graisse" diet, is not the favourite one in Alderney.

Although however, the business of life in Alderney is not to heap up wealth, and although profuseness is more common than parsimony, it is impossible to spend much. With the exception of the governor, nobody spends £300 per annum; and among the most respectable classes, the more

usual expenditure is from £100 to £150 per annum. Even this limited expenditure can command a great deal in Alderney. A tolerable house may be had for £10, or at most £15 a year. Meat, and poultry, are both somewhat under Guernsey prices; and the article of dress, costs little, where nobody thinks of dress, and where there are no critics on the cut of a coat, and where the milliner has no customers. There is no doubt emulation in Alderney however, as well as elsewhere; and a smart bonnet, though home made, will doubtless create a sensation in the street, or in the church of St. Anne. There are a few English residents in Alderney,—officers on half-pay,—who contrive to vegetate in this remote spot, apart from the din of the world, and only solicitous to get through life, on the pittance which they have earned in the service of their country. Singular contrast, between the stirring scenes of a camp, and the quiet monotony of this remote and primitive isle!

The chief resource of those who are not wholly occupied with agricultural pursuits, and who

belong to the upper class, is the club. There, at most hours of the day, little coteries of the male population of Alderney may be found, smoking, drinking brandy and water, and talking of such topics as island events afford,—or, if a mail chance to have arrived,—of the events that agitate larger communities. Reading is almost unknown. There is not a library or a book society in the island,—and but few books. Indeed so little taste is there for reading, that only one individual, (the governor) takes advantage of the facilities offered by the public library of Guernsey, and the frequent intercourse with that island. Let me not be understood, as including the clergyman in this condemnation. The Rev. Mr. Lys, a most intelligent and most worthy man, to whom I am happy to acknowledge myself under infinite obligations, finds, in the wants of a very extensive parish, and in the pleasing, but necessary cares of a rising family, sufficient occupation for all his hours. Having mentioned the clergyman, I may add, that he is paid by a salary from the crown,—the only tithe to which he is entitled,

being a tithe of fish,—which however, is always compounded for. The church, embraces almost the whole population of Alderney; the only exception being a few Wesleyans, who have a meeting house in the town. The church of St. Anne is a plain, ancient English looking edifice, with its tower and clock; and is large enough to contain nearly a thousand persons. The island belongs to the deanery of Guernsey, and the diocese of Winchester.

Will it be believed, that even in this little community, room is found for party spirit: yet such is the truth; and as a familiar illustration of its intensity, I may state, that the other day, on the appointment of two church wardens, they refused to act with each other, owing to the division of party. I will not attempt to explain in what way the distinction arises, or how it is maintained; it is too ridiculous to merit any notice. The people are also litigious; and are seldom satisfied without an appeal from the judicature of the island. I was told however, that law suits were formerly more common than they

are now; and that as many as seventeen cases, have been known to be entered in one day.

The climate of Alderney, is less agreable, though certainly not less healthful, than the climates of the other islands. Its more northerly position, situated almost opposite Cape La Hague, where the French coast swerves to the east, leaves the island exposed to the north-east winds, and fogs, that sweep down the channel; while the absence of wood, leaves the course of the winds unbroken. There is scarcely a rood of land throughout the island, that is not exposed to every wind that blows; for the only shelter is the stone walls, here and there used as inclosures. There are no deep sheltered valleys in the island, as in Jersey, or even, as in Sark. There is low, and high ground indeed; but the hollows are wide and open, and do not lie in the centre of the island; but towards the shores. It is not to be expected therefore, that the more delicate fruits and flowers, will attain in Alderney, the perfection which they reach in the sister islands. Under glass however, almost the same results may be

attained; since the rate of temperature in Alderney, cannot be much lower than it is in Guernsey.

But it does not appear, that the winds, or even the occasional fogs of Alderney, affect in any degree, the duration of human life. From the enquiries which I made, and the authentic information which I received, I am indeed justified in saying, that disease is rare, life long, and mortality low. Upon this subject, I will state a few facts received by me from the Rev. Mr. Lys,—and which, I think, will bear me out in the opinion which I have ventured to express.

The population of the parish of St. Anne, may be stated at 1100.

The number of baptisms during the last ten years, was 295.

The number of deaths (not reckoning 15 from shipwreck, and falling down the cliffs,) was 201; which is 20 per annum, on a population of 1100; not quite 2 per cent.

But there is one very remarkable fact, connected with life and death in this island. It is, that there are a greater number of deaths amongst

the old, than amongst the young; and that between the ages of 70 and 80, there are a greater number of deaths, than during any previous ten years of human life.

The following is a comparative statement of deaths, occurring in a population of 1100, during each ten years, from 1 to 100.

From 1	to	10	36
„ 10		20	16
„ 20		30	16
„ 30		40	16
„ 40		50	20
„ 50		60	21
„ 60		70	15
„ 70		80	40
„ 80		90	16
„ 90		100	5

The greatest number of deaths therefore, takes place between 70 and 80; and as many die between 80 and 90, as in any ten years, betwixt 10 and 40.

I found that nearly the same diseases were prevalent in Alderney as in the other islands;

rheumatism being however, less universal; and consumption rather more frequent.

In personal appearance, the inhabitants of Alderney do not differ from the natives of the other islands.

CHAPTER IV.

Trade and smuggling; civil government of the island; small economy; the militia; views; the caskets; the island of Berhou; the petrel; the burrowing bee.

ALDERNEY has now no trade, excepting merely that which is created by the wants of the island; and the remnant of an illicit traffic. The only exports are potatoes; and lobsters during the season. There is still a considerable import of British manufactured goods, which find their way into France—some say, to the extent of £50,000 per annum. I have reason to believe however, that this is an exaggeration; though it is certain that this trade is carried on, with advantage to those concerned in it, and without much hindrance or danger. In the article of tea, too, there is a small illicit trade: it is brought from France,

and is disposed of without difficulty, in Jersey and Guernsey, but chiefly in the latter island.

The import of spirits into Alderney, is considerable. I have before me, a document furnished to me by Mr. Gaudion, the king's procureur, by which it appears that from January, 1833, to January, 1834, 8049 gallons were retailed and consumed in the island. This is an immense consumption for so small a population, giving nearly thirty gallons per annum, to every upgrown male person. But spirit is the only liquor drank in Alderney. There is no cider, and no beer: and brandy and water, is therefore, the only substitute. In Alderney, as in the other islands, there is an impôt, or duty on spirit, of one shilling per gallon. This, in Alderney, amounts to about £400 per annum, which is applied towards improvements in the island.

The constitution of Alderney is similar to that of Guernsey. It consists of an assembly called the States: and of a court of judicature, which however, has no jurisdiction in criminal cases, all such being tried in Guernsey. The States are

composed of the six jurats; of the governor who has no vote, and of the douzainier, who are merely consulted, but have not as in Guernsey, any voice. The States and the Court, are in fact therefore the same. The jurats are elected by the rate payers; and from all I could learn, justice is pretty impartially administered; though of course under all the disadvantages which result from an elective magistracy—especially where the electors are ignorant, and the elected eligible, without qualification.

I have already mentioned government-house, and the name of the present governor. The emoluments of the office are extremely trifling,—certainly not covering the additional expenditure necessarily attendant on the office. And here, I cannot help observing, that in selecting Alderney for retrenchments, government has made a singular choice. The utmost saving that can be effected there, is pitiful, in comparison with what might be done in the other islands. Will it be believed, that the garden belonging to the government house, and which reaches up to the windows of

the house, has been taken from Major Baines, and let on the behalf of government, at the magnificent sum of £8 per annum! This *is* economy. The reason alledged is, that government made a bad bargain with the late hereditary governor, General Mesurier, and that the £700 a year, for which he was tempted to relinquish his patent, must be made up as far as possible, from the revenues of the island. That government made a bad bargain is certain: but it would be well to look to the sinecurists and overpaid persons elsewhere, before an insult is offered to the representative of the British government, to effect a miserable accession to the treasury of £8.

I must not omit to mention, that there is an island militia, consisting of about 200 men; together with nine pieces of artillery, and seventy artillerymen. The service is extremely popular; and the soldiers, pride themselves on their correct shooting,—probably not without some reason; since the number of rabbits and birds, on Alderney, and on the neighbouring island of Berhou, afford sufficient opportunity for practice.

Before quitting Alderney, the reader must accompany me on another ride; for although I have but little more to tell, of Alderney, I have some strange things to tell of the neighbouring island of Berhou; and I must also say something of the Caskets and their light house, which, both day and night, is so conspicuous an object from every elevation in Alderney.

In riding for the last time, over the island, some stone quarries were pointed out to me. They are used only in building; and not being situated close to the sea, it is probable that the expense of carriage, would prevent the realization of profit by exportation. I noticed with some surprise, numbers of enormous stones lying imbedded in the sandy soil, on the sides, and even on the top of the hills, where no rocks are to be seen. I do not attempt any explanation of this. I missed in Alderney that abundance of wild flowers, which is so striking and so attractive a feature of the sister islands. Only a few days before, I had seen in Guernsey and Jersey, the banks so covered with primroses, that scarcely could the

grass be seen; while on others, were thousands of the single wild daffodil, with its beautiful fringed bell shaped heart, and pale and fragile petals, and delicate odour; bringing to my recollection Wordsworths

> Host of dancing daffodills;
> Along the lake, beneath the trees,
> Ten thousand dancing in the breeze.

The seaward view from any of the heights of Alderney, is perhaps more striking, than from any of the other islands: for the French coast is so near, as in some positions, to be easily mistaken for a distant part of the island: and the casket light houses too, form another object of interest. Alderney too, being situated more on the outside of the great bay, than the other islands, is more in the way of vessels up and down the channel, especially of the numerous French chasse marées that trade between the southern ports, and the Baltic; so that, owing to the more frequent sight of vessels, there is greater variety in the sea views from Alderney than from the other islands. But I must not dismiss the Caskets and their light houses, with so slight a notice as this. I

purposed, had the weather been favourable, to have visited the Caskets, on leaving Alderney; but the wind and tide having made the accomplishment of this purpose impossible, I am obliged to rely for my description, upon such authentic documents and information as were within my reach. This was not difficult; since one intelligent individual with whom I conversed had visited the Caskets more than twenty times.

The Caskets are well known to all navigators of the English channel; and ought not to be dismissed in a single sentence,—for however small these rocky islets are, still, they are Channel Islands. The Caskets are about a mile in circumference, and have from 25 to 30 fathoms water round and close to them; so that a line of battle ship may pass safely within an oar's length of the rock. The ripple on the water however, occasioned by the velocity of the tide, is apt to create a suspicion of hidden danger, in those who navigate this part of the channel for the first time. The rock on which the light houses are erected, is of a whitish sand stone, and rises about thirty

feet above the level of the sea. The three light-houses are built in a triangular direction; the two southermost are about fifty feet from each other; and the high light house to the north, is on the most elevated part of the rock, about 150 feet north of the others. A triangular wall incloses the three lights, and forms a parade, gravelled, and kept in good order. The area contains a plot of ground, where a few vegetables and flowers are grown, on exotic soil; a small house, for the accommodation of the Trinity house master, when he visits the establishment,—with a bakehouse, and conveniences for the workmen who are occasionally required to make repairs. The too lower light houses are capacious, and fitted to contain the stores and provisions necessary for winter, during which season, it would be often impossible to land.

There are two landing places for boats; one, the work of nature, so formed, that a frigate might lie in the little harbour, as in a dock; and here, steps are cut in the rock, and facilities supplied for hauling up boats. The landing places

are practicable for boats, only in calm weather. The Caskets are the only triple lights in the channel. In the year 1744, October 5, the Victory, of 110 guns, commanded by Admiral Sir John Butcher, with eleven hundred sailors and marines, was lost on these rocks.

The glasses are frequently broken in stormy weather, by birds, and by the sea; and in October, 1823, a violent storm altogether destroyed the lights.

It will be recollected, that in detailing the particulars of my voyage to Alderney, I made mention of the island of Berhou, which is separated from Alderney by the swinge. This island is peculiarly interesting to the naturalist: for here is found the bird sometimes called the stormy petrel,—and familiarly known to mariners, as mother Carey's chicken. The only other spots among the British isles, where it is to be found, are, the Scilly Isles, and the Calf of Man. It is not difficult on Berhou, to take the bird with the hand: but the attempt, whether successful or not, will be made at the expense of some unplea-

sant sensations; for the petrel has the faculty of throwing from the bill, to a considerable distance, a quantity of fœtid oily matter, more than an equivalent for the capture. It is said, I do not know with what truth, that this oil is used medicinally,—and as some say, successfully, in the cure of rheumatism.

But this is not the only object of interest to the naturalist who may visit Berhou. The honey bee, of the species apis centuncularis, is found in the sands of Berhou. Kirby and Spence's account of this singular insect, is so much better than any that I could draw up, that I make no apology for transfering it to my pages. "Apis centuncularis, cover the walls of their cells, with a coating of leaves,—generally selecting for their hangings, the leaves of trees, especially the rose, whence they have been known by the name of the leaf cutter bee. They differ from apis papaveris, in excavating longer burrows, and filling them with several thimble shaped cells, composed of portions of leaves so curiously convoluted, that if we were ignorant in what school they have been taught

to construct them, we should never credit their being the work of an insect. Their entertaining history, so long ago, as 1670, attracted the attention of our countrymen, Ray, Lister, Willughby, and Sir Edward King; but we are indebted for the most complete account of their procedure, to Reaumur.

"The mother bee first excavates a cylindrical hole, eight or ten inches long, in a horizontal direction, either in the ground, or in the trunk of a rotten willow tree, or occasionally, in other decaying wood (in Berhou, these holes are excavated in the ground; indeed, there are neither trees, nor large shrubs in the island.) This cavity she fills with six or seven cells, wholly composed of portions of leaf, of the shape of a thimble,—the convex end of one closely fitting in the open end of the other. Her first process is, to form the exterior coating, which is composed of three or four pieces of larger dimensions than the rest, and of an oval form. The second coating is formed of portions of equal size; narrow at one end; but gradually widening towards the other, where the

width equals half the length. One side of these pieces is the serrate margin of the leaf from which it was taken; which, as the pieces are made to lap, one over the other, is kept on the outside, and that which is cut, within. The little animal now forms a third coating of similar materials; the middle of which, as the most skilful workman would do, in similar circumstances, she places over the margin of those that form the first tube; thus covering, and strengthening the junctures. Repeating the same process, she gives a fourth, and sometimes a fifth coating to her nest,—taking care, at the closed end, or narrow extremity of the cell, to bend the leaves, so as to form a convex termination. Having thus finished a cell, her next business is to fill it, within half a line of the orifice, with a rose-coloured conserve, composed of honey, and pollen, usually collected from the flowers of thistles; and then, having deposited her egg, she closes the orifice with three pieces of leaf, so exactly circular, that a pair of compasses could not define their margin with more truth; and coincides so precisely with the

walls of the cell, as to be restrained in their situation, merely by the nicety of their adaptation. After this covering is fitted in, there remains still, a concavity, which receives the convex end of the succeeding cell, and in this manner, the indefatigable little animal proceeds, until she has completed the six or seven cells which compose the cylinder. The process which one of these bees employs, in cutting the pieces of leaf that compose her nest, is worthy of attention: nothing can be more expeditious:—she is no longer about it, than we should be with a pair of scissors. After hovering for some moments over a rose bush, (in Berhou, it is the wild brier, that is laid under contribution) as if to reconnoitre the ground, the bee alights on the leaf which she has selected, usually taking her station upon its edge, so that the margin passes between her legs. With her strong mandibles, she cuts, without intermission, in a curve line, so as to detach a triangular portion. When this hangs by the last fibre, lest its weight should carry it to the ground, she balances her little wings for flight; and the very moment

it parts from the leaf, flies off with it in triumph, the detached portion remaining bent between her legs, in a direction perpendicular to her body. Thus, without rule or compasses, do these diminutive creatures mete out the materials for their work, into portions of an ellipsis, into ovals, or circles, accurately accommodating the dimensions of the several pieces of each figure to each other. What other architect could carry impressed on the tablet of his memory, the entire idea of the edifice which he has to erect; and destitute of square or plumb line, cut out his materials in their exact dimensions, without a single mistake. Yet this is what our little bee invariably does."

This is a long extract, but it is a curious one; and Berhou lies at so small a distance from England, that it is possible some naturalist may visit Alderney purposely to observe the habits of the apis centuncularis.

Berhou is of considerable extent; but is no inhabited, unless by the bee, the petrel, and by a rather extensive colony of rabbits, which are now nearly extinct in Alderney, where they were at one time, equally plentiful as in Berhou.

I had reason to consider myself extremely fortunate in finding, just at the time I could have wished, a happy union of wind and tide, with moderate weather, to undertake the voyage back to Guernsey; though it would have been difficult, if not impracticable, to have reached the Caskets. Indeed, had the weather been such, as to have rendered a passage in an open boat hazardous, it would have been impossible for me to have left the island; since the only decked vessels, were engaged in exporting potatoes to England. At full tide, and with a fine steady wind, we cleared the pier of Braye, after a little tossing in the extraordinary swell, which, fair weather or foul, always sets into the little harbour. Day light made the swinge greatly more formidable, than I had found it on the evening I arrived in Alderney; and the stronger wind, and the different direction of it, also encreased the agitation of the sea: but we safely navigated this perilous passage; and with the tide in our favour, soon left Alderney a-stern. Viewed from the sea, Alderney is certainly the least captivating of the Channel

Islands; for the rock scenery is insignificant, compared with that of Serk; and the slopes and banks, have neither the charming fertility which distinguishes Jersey, nor the union of a more studied art, with a less bountiful nature, which distinguishes Guernsey; and in leaving the island behind me, I felt that if the English are right, in the placid images which the name of Alderney calls up; so also are the inhabitants of the islands, in the ominous shake of the head, with which they listen to one, who speaks of visiting the race and the swinge guarded island.

The wind and tide did not permit the boatmen to carry me to St. Peter's Port; and I was contented to be put ashore at the end of a long reef of rocks, at least five miles from the town. I judged, that there might possibly be reasons for this; and that a small speculation in tea, made a direct visit to the town inconvenient.

SERK.

THE ISLAND OF SERK.

CHAPTER I.

Singular access to Serk; general aspect of the island; dells and valleys; birds and flowers; Little Serk, and its singularities; anecdote; rock scenery of Serk; the "boutiques."

If Jersey and Guernsey be imperfectly known in England, what shall we say of Serk? and yet, Serk is one of the most singular and interesting spots that I have ever visited; not merely on account of its natural peculiarities,—but as a social community.

Passing from the southern coast of England to Jersey, or to the coast of Brittany, one perceives on the left, after leaving Guernsey, at the distance of between two and three leagues, the elevated,

but even line of an island, of considerable magnitude; for in using this word, it will be recollected I am speaking of the islands of the British channel, none of which are of great extent. This line, is the line of the table land of Serk: and if one should feel curious to bring Serk a little nearer, and should apply the eye to a telescope, nothing will be seen but a perpendicular and very rugged wall of rock. But this object, which, by such a glimpse, one might very naturally conclude to be a sterile, and perhaps even uninhabited islet, is covered with luxuriant crops,—is diversified with wood,—is intersected by roads,—is broken into romantic valleys,—is spotted with substantial farm houses,—and maintains in comfort and independence, a hardy and industrious population of between 500 and 600.

I had not been long among the Channel Islands, before I visited this interesting spot; provided with a letter of introduction to the lord of Serk, W—— Le Pelley, Esq., to whom, I take this opportunity of returning my warmest acknowledgements for the valuable information which I

received from him, as well as for the hospitalities of his manor house.

It was on a fine July morning, and with a stiff breeze, that my little boat ran under the rocks of Serk; and I confess I was not a little puzzled to understand, where the boatmen intended to land me; for everywhere round the creek, or little cove into which we had run, I could see only perpendicular rocks. However, by the boatman laying aside his oars, and demanding his fare, I concluded that the voyage had ended; though I could not for the life of me understand, how my pilot intended to dispose of me.

"That is the way," said he, in his own broken dialect, pointing upward; and upon casting my eyes in the direction to which he spoke, I perceived a rope-end dangling upon the rock,—and within arm's length of me; and accordingly, concluding this to be the legitimate entrance to the island, I paid my fare,—seized the rope,—and finding resting places for the tiptoe and sometimes for the sole of the foot, reached by these various helps, a ledge about thirty feet above the water.

From this spot, the ascent was somewhat easier; and after a toilsome, but interesting scramble of between two and three hundred feet, I found myself on the table land of Serk, with a fine, and apparently level extent before me, of cultivated land, and abundant vegetation.

It must not however be imagined, that there is no way of gaining the table land of Serk, unless by the precipitous, and somewhat dangerous path, by which I made my entrance. Serk possesses a harbour, though the very least, and most curious, and most picturesque that can well be imagined; but this little harbour lying on the other side of the island, boatmen from Guernsey prefer making their passengers swing up the side of the rock, to the inconvenience of a longer voyage. This little harbour, called the Creux, is the only accessible part of the island,—accessible however, in a singular way: for when one steps on shore from the harbour, one is still outside of Serk. You have still to pass through a tunnel, about twenty yards in length, beneath the solid rock,—and on emerging from it, a winding path up a narrow valley,

leads to the table land. The tunnel, or hole, of which I have spoken, appears to have been partly natural, and partly excavated; and I need scarcely say, that it might be defended against almost any attack, either by a very trifling force, or by the application of artificial defences. To detach by gunpowder, a part of the roof, or side of the tunnel, would render Serk inaccessible.

I have seldom spent a few days more to my mind, than those which I spent in Serk, and they were fully occupied,—whether in contemplation of natural objects,—in observing and talking with the islanders,—or in conversation with their respected chief: and I shall make no apology for speaking somewhat in detail, of all that I saw, and learnt in this interesting, and little known dependency of the British crown. I shall first speak of its general features, and of all that the eye takes cognizance of.

At first sight, one landed on Serk, and looking over it, would conclude that the island was almost a plain,—a cultivated and enclosed plain,—fertile,—and a grain country: and it is only a part

of this impression that is proved to be erroneous, by a nearer survey of it. It was towards the latter end of July when I visited Serk; and in walking through it, I everywhere found the heavy wheat crops almost ready for the sickle; the barley crops had already been gathered. But the first impression, that Serk is a plain, is soon agreeably removed. Although what is usually called a table land, Serk is intersected by deep, wooded, romantic valleys; watered by little tumbling brooks. I descended into all of these valleys, dells, and hollows; and found some of them surpassingly beautiful,—singularly contrasting, in my memory, with the barren and rocky coast that so little prepares one for scenes of soft and wooded fertility. In some spots, it is indeed difficult to believe, that one is on a small islet, two or three leagues in circumference. One valley, the valley of Dixcard, is every way a charming spot; it is a winding valley, about a quarter of a mile broad, flanked by hills, that appear lofty, owing to the great depth of the valley. Wood in infinite variety, fills the lower

part of the valley; cottages with their little gardens, and bit of orchard ground, are scattered in its bosom; while the green sides of the hills, dotted with cattle, entirely shut out the view of sea; and the rush of the little rivulet by the pathway, as well as the bend of the valley, hinders even the sound of the waves from reaching this sweet seclusion.

Among the many charms of these dells, I must not forget the abundance of singing birds, and the extraordinary profusion of woodbine. Blackbirds, are greatly more numerous than in any other of the Channel Islands: from the depth of every hollow, they were sending up their full mellow notes; and as for the honeysuckle, it blossoms thickly upon every hedge, and twines up half the trees that skirt the roads and enclosures; so that its fragrance,—one of the sweetest I think in nature,—loads every air that blows.

The only part of Serk, that is not under tillage, or some cultivation, is "Little Serk," to which I found my way the first evening of my arrival; and Little Serk, or rather, the access to Little

Serk, is one of the wonders of Great Serk. It will be difficult I fear, to convey to the reader a clear understanding of this wonder; but it is necessary that I should make the attempt. Little Serk, as it is called, is a part of, and connected with the island of Serk; and may form perhaps one eighth part of it; and the singularity is, that at the point of junction, the island is almost cleft in twain. To pass from the larger to the smaller part of the island, you pass along a narrow isthmus,—nearly two hundred yards long, and four or five feet broad, with precipices on either side, of about three hundred feet, down to the sea. On one side, the descent is perpendicular; on the other, so precipitous, that one would be more rash than bold in attempting a descent. The connecting ridge is a solid rock.

At one time, the pass was still more dangerous than it now is. In 1811, a small part of the ridge was detached and fell; but before this, the width was not more than two feet. It is related, that an individual who resided in Little Serk, was accustomed very frequently to visit the other

part of the island,—one temptation being, to visit the public-house: and that when he returned home at night, he was in the habit of ascertaining whether he had drunk too much, to make it prudent for him to venture across. This important test of his sobriety was thus practised. During the war, a piece of artillery had been posted close to the junction,—and indeed I believe lies there still; and the test adopted by the tippler, of the state of his head, was, to walk on the cannon from end to end, two or three times. If he accomplished his task, he concluded that he was sober enough to venture across the bridge; but if he fell, or slipped over, he then lay down, and slept among the heath, till on awaking, a second trial proved to him the safety of the attempt.

Little Serk differs in its features from the rest of the island: it is, in fact, a fine sheep walk—only that few sheep walk upon it: and it is scarcely, if at all, under tillage; neither is there any wood; but the absence of wood is atoned for, by the beautiful heaths with which the ground is tufted. I have never indeed in a northern

latitude, seen any heath so beautiful as that which grows upon Serk. From the elevated part of Little Serk, an extensive view is laid open, comprehending the whole of the channel archipelago. Guernsey, with its imposing town, at the distance of three leagues, is distinctly visible; to the south-east, and at a distance of about twenty miles, or somewhat less, Jersey is seen on the horizon; in precisely an opposite direction, the smaller island of Alderney is still less distinctly visible; while nearer at hand, Herm, Jethou, and many still smaller islets, stud the ocean on all sides.

Descending from the table land of Serk to the sea, which may with considerable difficulty be accomplished at one point, by far the finest rock scenery is presented, that is to be found among these islands. Nothing is wanting to form the perfection of the picturesque; and if, to the height and threatening aspect of the cliffs, and the hollow bellowing of the sea, as it rebounds within the caverns, we add the feeling of solitude, the picturesque rises almost into the sublime.

The Serk people have a singular appellation for the caverns that abound on their shores, they call them boutiques; but they are shops which one must enter with caution; they have many ramifications, and communicate with each other, by holes and archways. Sometimes, you are in darkness,—and then, suddenly you stand beneath a natural sky-light a hundred feet above, through which the dazzling sun-light pours down. But an inconsiderate progress into these caverns is dangerous; both because they abound in deep pools, and because, the level of the caverns being unequal, one may be surprised by the tide, which may enter by some distant ramification. It would be impossible I think, to conceive a more miserable termination of life; or death surrounded by more horrors, than would be the lot of one surprised in a cavern by the tide. On the open sea, there is always something like hope; a sail,—a raft,—a hencoop; there is at all events companionship, and light,—space around, and the sky above; but alone, in a dark cavern,—retreating to its farthermost extremity,—it is too horrible to

contemplate; and yet some human beings have no doubt thus died.

I spent a long summer day among these singular scenes; and whether in shapes or hues, I have never seen rocks offer so much that is curious to the eye. There is scarcely a form that the rocks do not take,—or at least, that fancy may not without any great stretch, invest them with; and as for the hues of the rocks,—grey, and buff, and black, and white, and blue, and red, are all presented within the eye's range. I am almost ashamed to say, that it was neither the search after steatite, or lapis ollaris, nor even the picturesque beauties of the spot, that detained me beyond the hour when my company was expected elsewhere; but an old, and very large grey gull, that sat on the pinnacle of an insulated rock. There he was sitting when I descended in the morning; there he sat like a stoic, the livelong day, never joining the thousand of the kind that wheeled, and sailed, and screamed around him; and though really anxious to see him fly away, and many a time attempting both by cries and mis-

siles, to send him among his kind, I was forced after all, to leave him sitting.

But it is time now, that I should leave the general external aspect of Serk, to speak of its inhabitants,—their dwellings, and possessions, and mode of life, and customs, and peculiarities: for these, after all, are more important and more attractive, than the finest descriptions of natural scenery that were ever offered to the eye of a view hunter, or that ever employed the pen of a tourist.

CHAPTER II

Inhabitants of Serk; state of property, and laws; farm houses; occupations; agriculture, and fishing; mode of life; amusements; morality in Serk.

I have said, that the inhabitants of Serk amount to between five and six hundred, a number considerably less than the island might support; but the encrease of population is checked, by the manner in which the land is held. There are forty copyhold possessions on the island, and there can never be less or more. No copyhold possessor of a farm, can sell, or dispose of a part of his property; he may sell,—but he must sell all; and one thirteenth part of the purchase money goes to the lord of Serk. In case of death also, the property devolves entire upon the eldest son; or failing such, to the eldest collateral branch. All properties in short, must ever con-

tinue entire, as originally granted. Buildings too, erected on an estate, must go along with it; there is therefore no facility for an encreasing population: the lord of the manor however, possesses some land not yet granted in copyhold; and upon that land, houses have been erected, and population has encreased.

The houses of the farmers, are built of stone,—generally granite; and have all the appearance of great antiquity. Their situations are generally well chosen, in some sheltered spot, either in the dells, or behind hillocks. All of the better sort of houses have enclosures before, and a little orchard ground behind; and there is altogether, something very picturesque about these oddly shaped, and very substantial houses, with the moss grown rocks and stones in their neighbourhood, and the venerable ivy that hangs upon their walls.

The properties of these farmers, scarcely average more than fifteen English acres; and the management of such properties not requiring the labour of a man and his family, all the posses-

sors of land, are also fishermen. But the life of a fisherman has more attractions for a Serkman, than that of an agriculturist: and were it not for the great fertility of the soil, the care and labour which he bestows upon the land, would not secure a return to the farmer. This fertility is however great; some land having been known to yield sixty bushels of wheat per English acre, and the average return of land, being considerably above forty. But, as I have said, the Serkman is more attached to his fishing, than to his tillage, and prefers his nets to his plough. To him, there is an indescribable pleasure in sitting idly in his boat, basking in the sun, and waiting God's luck. A fish called rock fish, is extensively caught, and is chiefly salted for winter provision. The surplus produce of the net, is generally taken to Guernsey market: that part of the produce which is not used in their families, consists chiefly, of lobsters, and cray fish,—both of which are caught in great abundance round the island.

But the Serkman does not confine his attachment to boating, to his own creeks and coves,

nor even to excursions as far as Guernsey. He is his own boat builder; and with his little vessel of twenty foot keel, he adventures far from his own shores. With his cargo of potatoes, or occasionally of shell fish, he goes as far as Cherboug; and even seeks a market in the English ports.

This preference of sea to land, imposes upon the women, the necessity of performing much outdoor labour. This again, produces other evils; it occupies time which ought to be employed in household matters; leads to the neglect of children,—and probably, to the injury of health; and there is no doubt, that were the time spent in the fishing boat by those who possess land, bestowed upon that land, there would be a larger and more sure return from the latter, than from the former occupation. Labour and exposure to the sun, have produced their usual effect on the appearance of the women, who are, with few exceptions, remarkably plain; while, on the other hand, the men may be called a good looking race.

The people of Serk live better than those of the

same rank in either Jersey or Guernsey. All being fishermen, they have a more constant supply, and a greater variety of fish; and I found few —none indeed, of the farmers, who are not accustomed to eat bacon three or four times a week. As in the other Channel Islands, all keep cows,—and make butter,—the surplus of which, is exported to Guernsey. The people of Serk have their amusements too: they have their social meetings, especially at christmas time, when twenty or thirty assemble together, to eat, drink, and gossip. Drinking to excess is not however a vice of the Serk people, although spirituous liquors are as cheap as they are in the other islands. The present lord of Serk discourages as much as possible, all excess of this kind; and the power of licensing public houses, being one of his manorial rights, he has limited the number to two.

Although the landowners supply almost all their wants, from their land, and by their nets, there are of course some, independent of both. A few shopkeepers have therefore settled on Serk; and

cottages here and there, are also inhabited by artificers, such as shoemakers, general carpenters, &c. The farmers, I have already said, are their own ship-carpenters, other trades which in larger communities are separately followed, are here, the concern of each family: such as tailoring and hatmaking, which are the business of the females of the family; house-masons are so rarely wanted that they would find no trade in Serk, and are therefore imported from Guernsey when required. As for walls and outbuildings,—such as a byre, or a pig-stie, every Serkman is mason enough for these. There are few trades also, of the more cunning kind, with which, there is not to be found in Serk, some old man, in some degree, conversant. The nature of the holdings, forbidding the division of property, and tending also to obstruct the multiplication of houses, has the natural effect of sending many out of the island. Younger sons must seek their fortune; and accordingly it not unfrequently happens, that those who have spent half a lifetime as artificers either in the other islands, or in England, return to Serk, and

turn their talents, if not to their own profit, to that of their countrymen.

The people of Serk have few temptations to immorality; and are rather a religiously disposed people: this at least is certain, that they are regular attenders of public worship. The incumbency of Serk, is a perpetual curacy, in the nomination of the seigneur,—who however, has no power of removing a minister whom he has appointed. There is no fixed stipend; this being a matter of agreement between the minister, and the patron, who pays him. The present incumbent receives £80 per annum, and a free house. The church, erected in 1820, is a very neat and commodious building. There is also a free school in the island, attended by about seventy children. The schoolmaster's salary is £33; the produce of money which was the overplus of a sum granted by the States of Guernsey for the erection of the pier, and which is lodged in the French funds.

CHAPTER III.

The agriculture of Serk; live stock; civil government; manorial rights; island militia; the harbour; scenery; the isle of Brechnou; historical sketch; singular tradition; geological notices.

I now proceed to speak briefly of the agriculture and produce of this little island. Except close to the coast, the soil of Serk is a rich deep loam, lying on a bed of clay: in some parts, the substratum is gravel and rock; but the soil is everywhere unusually fertile,—as some proof of which, I may state, that in favourable seasons, land has yielded three hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes of sixty pound per bushel, per English acre; and fifty-eight bushels of wheat, imperial measure, is no unusual produce.

The agriculture of Serk does not differ greatly from that of Guernsey; but in Serk, there is less

proportion of pasture; the land being more generally under tillage,—the produce being parsnips, wheat, barley, oats, beans, potatoes, mangel wurzel, &c. No vraic is found on the coast of Serk,—the cliffs being everywhere precipitous, and the sea deep; but the inhabitants of Serk have a right of vraic carrying, on Herm, on which the weed is very abundant. Vraic is therefore, in Serk, as in the other islands, the general manure: Serk produces considerably more than suffices for its own consumption. It is generally said, that the corn produced for one year suffices for two year's consumption. In 1832, upwards of 500 quarters of wheat were exported from Serk; and a very large quantity of potatoes: in 1822, no fewer than 22,000 bushels were exported. The Serk farms are not generally laboured by spade husbandry; but the farmers, as in the other islands, assist each other,—though they do not in Serk make use of the great plough, which is so universal a favourite in Jersey and Guernsey. Owing to the indivisibility of property in Serk, the enclosures are larger than they are in the

other islands; and the embankments are of a simular construction, though not on quite so large a scale.

Generally speaking, live stock in Serk is much the same as in Guernsey; especially horned cattle and hogs, though both are somewhat larger. A fat ox has been known to reach six score; and many hogs weigh four hundred pound. The few sheep fed on Serk, are certainly superior; and I can answer for the mutton being excellent. The quarter of a fat sheep, when killed, does not weigh more than seven or eight pounds. The horses are neither large nor good looking; but they are good workers, hardy, and easily kept. It has been remarked by those who have had opportunities of forming a correct judgment, that disease among cattle, is extremely rare in Serk.

There are a good many orchards in Serk; which produce abundantly; and all the fruit and garden produce which is found in the other islands, is congenial to Serk. In the garden belonging to the seigneurie, I saw remarkably fine fruit,—especially peaches, appricots, and nectarines: figs also I saw in great perfection.

The quantity of land under tillage, is about 1100 acres; and the quantity of waste land in Serk may amount to about one seventh of the whole superficies. It is not often that land is to be let in Serk; but when this occurs, good land lets readily at 75s. per acre, all rent is paid in kind.

The lord of Serk, is the sole lay impropriator of tithes. The tithe paid to the seigneur is the tenth sheaf of wheat, barley, oats, beans, &c., as well as the tenth of wool and lambs.

The constitution and government of Serk are most singular. It forms a part of the bailiwick of Guernsey; and is under its jurisdiction, in civil, military, and ecclesiastical affairs; but the legislative power, as regards the government of the island, by local enactments, is vested in the seigneur, and his forty tenants; who together form a little parliament, which sits three times in the year. This assembly is presided over by an officer called the seneschal, who is appointed by the seigneur: and the seigneur possesses a veto on the acts of the assembly.

The executive power is vested in the seneschal, who has the cognizance of civil cases; and from his court, an appeal lies to the Royal Court of Guernsey. The other public officers are, a provost, whose office it is, to plead the king's causes, —to regulate weights and measures,—and to arrest for debt; a registrar, who has custody of the records of the island,—and a constable, and vingtenier, who constitute the police of the island. The provost and registrar, are named by the seigneur. The police officers, by the forty tenants. Amongst other seignorial rights, the lord of Serk is entitled to one half of all unclaimed wrecks.

Formerly, the seigneur could call upon his forty tenants to bear arms; and each was obliged by his tenure, to find himself in a musket and accoutrements. But muskets, and regular clothing, are now furnished by government; and all the inhabitants above the age of 16, are obliged to bear arms. The island militia is one hundred strong; and is commanded by the seigneur, as lieutenant-colonel, who, as well as the other officers, holds his commission from the governor

in chief of Guernsey; ten pieces of artillery also are allowed by government for the defence of Serk. The militia-men of Serk are expert marksmen; and considering the natural defences of the island, this force is sufficiently effective.

The rates are levied by order of the little parliament,—and generally, the island wants, are covered by 4d. in the pound. At this date, August 1833, one pauper only is on the list. No taxes can be levied in Serk, but for the purposes of the island; and no tax levied by the jurisdictions of the other islands could reach Serk. The inhabitants are also bound to keep the roads in repair, by their own manual labour, and to use their own tools, carts and horses.

I have mentioned that Serk has another entrance than that by which I was admitted to it: and that it possesses a harbour; and that after stepping ashore, one has still to pass through a long archway under the rock, before it is possible to reach the interior of the island. I visited this singular spot the evening after my arrival, with the seigneur for my conductor. The descent to

the harbour is by a singularly wild, winding and narrow valley, which leads to the edge of a cliff, on the left with the sea below; while to the right, farther progress is obstructed by an inaccessible rock which rises about 150 feet above the path. It is underneath this rock, that the archway is formed; and having passed through it, you stand in point of the little harbour. Across the mouth of it, leaving only an entrance, a pier, or rather a breakwater, has been constructed,—which, from first to last, has cost about £1600. It is here that the Serkmen build their boats; several were in the course of being built and repaired; and the men were busy with them. I mention this, that I may have an opportunity of remarking upon the cordial feeling that appeared to exist between the lord of Serk and his people. I everywhere perceived evidence of that kind of intercourse which ought to subsist on such a spot, between the lord of so insulated a territory and those who acknowledge him as their head: for he who is proprietor of the island,—who is its military commander,—who appoints the civil judge, and the spiritual

and intellectual guides,—and who has a veto on the acts of the little legislature,—is in fact, a mimic king; and in his own sphere, has the power of being more the father of his people, than the monarch of more extended domains.

I could dilate upon the singularities of many other spots, which I visited in company with the seigneur; and ought not to omit all notice of the "creux terrible," a horrible pit in the rock, into which the sea enters by a cavern below, and from whose darkness and profundity, one instinctively draws back. These spots were singular, and singularly horrible; but the knolls and the slopes of the dells, covered with bright lilac heath,—and blooming furze,—and broad-leaved fern,—and tall foxglove,—and the pretty sea pink,—and the scented wild thyme, had greater charms for me. Among other plants which I observed growing wild, I noticed stramonium,—horehound,—centaury,—and wormwood. Nor must I omit one production which helped to grace the dinner-table at the manor house—wild spinach. This plant grows in very great abundance in a

gorge by which we ascended from the sea; and is equally delicate with, and possesses precisely the same flavour as, the garden spinach.

Close to the west end of Serk, and separated from it only by a narrow channel, about eighty yards across, is an islet called Brechnou, or Ile de Marchands. This islet, is part of the seignory of Serk, and used to be kept by the seigneur as a rabbit warren. He has lately however, enclosed it, and settled two families on it. This islet is about a mile and a half in circumference,—and presents everywhere, precipitous shores. There is a tradition, that a frigate once passed through the straight between Serk and Brechnou; and it is certain, that about fifty years ago, the Valentine, homeward-bound Indiaman, was lost near the same spot.

The history of Serk will not occupy me long. It is said that a certain bishop of Dol, in Britanny, then Armorica, conceived the design of christianizing the islands of the channel. This was some time during the sixth century. This holy man, previous to entering upon his labours, resolved to

prepare himself by prayer and solitary meditation; and for this purpose, retired to Serk, which was doubtless at that time uninhabited. There he built a small chapel and monastery, as the legend says; and it is certain that in the reign of Edward III, a chapel, or the remains of some building, existed in the island, upon which, might then be traced, the name of the bishop.

Subsequently to this, Serk became a nest for pirates, who were long the scourge of these seas; but an expedition against them was fitted out from Rye, and Winchelsea; and the pirates and their vessels were destroyed; and from that period until the reign of Edward VI, the isle was again uninhabited. In the reign of this prince however, the French seized upon Serk, and raised two forts upon it; and from their almost unassailable position, they made descents upon the other islands, and seriously annoyed the English trade. But in the reign of queen Mary, Serk was surprised by certain Flemings, subjects of Philip, the husband of Mary. There are two accounts of this event. One says merely, that a small

number of Flemings arrived on the coast, at night, climbing into the island, by one of the almost inaccessible paths, surprised and made prisoners of the few French who still kept possession. Sir Walter Raleigh however, in his history, gives another and more curious account; and this, is the tradition current in the island. He says, the island of Serk joining to Guernsey, and of that government, was, in queen Mary's time (this is an error) surprised by the French, and could never have been recovered again by strong hand, having cattle and corn enough upon the place, to feed so many men as will serve to defend it; and being every way so inaccessible, that it might be held against the great Turk. Yet, by the industry of a gentleman of the Netherlands, it was in this sort regained. He anchored in the road with one ship; and pretending the death of his merchant; besought the French that they might bury their merchant in hallowed ground, and in the chapel of that isle; offering to the French, a present of such commodities as they had on board. Whereto, with condition

that they should not come ashore with any weapon, no, not so much as with a knife,—the French yielded. Then did the Flemings put a coffin in their boat, not filled with a dead carcase, but with swords, targets, and harquebuzes. The French received them at their landing, and searching every one of them so narrowly that they could not hide a penknife, gave them leave to draw the coffin up the rocks with great difficulty. Some part of the French took the Flemish boat, and rowed aboard their ship, to fetch the commodities promised, and what else they pleased, but being entered, they were taken and bound. The Flemings on the land, when they had carried their coffin into the chapel, shut the door on them, and taking the weapons out of the coffin, set upon the French. They ran to the cliff, and cry to their companions aboard the Fleming to come to their assistance: but finding the boat charged with Flemings, yielded themselves and the place. This, if true, proves the Fleming to have been a very ingenious gentleman; and Sir Walter Raleigh pronounces the stratagem a chef d'œuvre.

From this event until the year 1565 Serk is believed to have been uninhabited, but at that period, Elizabeth granted the island by patent under the great seal of England, to Hillary de Carteret, seigneur of St. Ouen's, in Jersey. By him it was colonized, and is now held under the same patent, though not in the same family.

The capture of Serk has never been attempted by the French in later times. The possession of the island would certainly be highly advantageous to an enemy of Britain; but the enterprize would be one of very doubtful success; and could not be attempted without a large and certain sacrifice of human life.

I do not know that I have any thing more to add to these notices of Serk, unless it be, a recommendation to those who are curious in natural scenery, or to whom, the spectacle of an insulated and peculiar people has attractions to visit the island. The number of those who do visit Serk from the neighbouring islands, is extremely limited. From Guernsey indeed, it is not a very unusual summer excursion; and as comfortable

lodgings may be had at several of the farm houses, families occasionally reside there for a few weeks. Few however of the inhabitants of Jersey have visited Serk: and I never met with one English resident who had. What a retreat would Serk be to the professional, or the literary man, from the din of the metropolis! What a contrast between the crowd, and bustle, and noise, and mists of Fleet-Street, and the repose, and free air of Serk, with its deep still dells, and flowery knolls, and quiet bays, and monotonous sounds.

I have said nothing of the climate of Serk, and the health of the inhabitants; and perhaps I cannot give a better proof of the healthfulness of the island than this, that there is no medical man on it. There are female accoucheurs indeed,—and one or two individuals who profess to set bones: but excepting in these casualties, medical and surgical aid must both be obtained from Guernsey. On an average of ten years, the mortality is not quite one in a hundred; and in the years 1816 and 1820 there was not one death in a population of 500 persons. Query; are ten years

added to one's life, an equivalent for a life spent in Serk?

Serk is said to be most interesting to the geologist. Of geology and mineralogy, I am myself profoundly ignorant; but, as the formation of Serk is considered to be extremely curious, and as some of my readers may probably be more scientific than I am, I might not perhaps be held altogether justified in saying nothing of the mineralogy of Serk; though in doing so, I must have recourse to other minds than my own, which I confess I am always unwilling to do. Some few extracts from the observations of Dr. McCulloch will inform the geologist of what he may expect from a visit to Serk. Speaking of those cliffs in which there are deep and large fissures, and caverns, he says: "Some of the veins which I was able to examine, are filled with granitic stones, iron shot, and in a state of decomposition. In some parts I observed dark silicious iron stones, and in some were mixtures of black mica, and quartz, resembling micaceous schistus. Small intersections are formed of green and red jasper,

and many coarse agates are found among them, consisting of similar materials, and mixed with hornstones and quarts of various colours. Many veins are inaccessible, but the substances found on the beach, which seem to have been washed out of them, are course yellow, brown, red and green jaspers; sometimes containing veins of iron ochre, or crystals of hornblende, or passing on the one hand to quartz, and on the other hand to hornstone. Sometimes they are veined with quartz, and striped and waved of various colours, with mixtures of quartz and chalcedony, resembling agates."

I have already spoken of the rock scenery of the Port du Moulin. Dr. MacCulloch, speaking of the same part of Serk says, "The whole of these rocks are of granwacke, schist and granwacke. The strata are nearly horizontal, and are occasionally intersected by veins of quartz, as is common elsewhere. It is nowhere of a foliated fracture, producing roofing slate; but in many places breaks into pieces adapted for square masonry. It is intersected in one or two places

by wide and perpendicular veins of the magnesian class of stones, and where it is in contact with those veins, it appears to pass into schistose talc, and indurated steatite. The veins I have mentioned, contain various kinds of steatite, often so contaminated with iron and clay, and so indurated, as to be with difficulty distinguished from the argillaceous tribe. Talc, talcaceous, schist, and asbestos are found in the same veins, and with the asbestos are slender veins of argentine spar. Lapis ollaris is also found here, as well as in the land lying above the cliffs, from which I guess this vein runs across the island. A very large wall of reddish granite, the end of a vein from which the schistose strata have been washed, stands far out on the shore, forming a natural arch. Where the arch is formed, a softer cross fissure seems to have existed, from which the looser materials have been washed away. This vein intersects the granwacke, and is nearly perpendicular. Parallel and near to it, is a similar vein, but not standing out from the cliff; and between these two granite veins, is contained a

vein of argillaceous stone, about fifteen feet thick, —the whole forming a singular kind of stratified vein lying in the granwacke.

Dr. MacCulloch farther says: "I observed a large vein of black prophiry in going from the Creux to la Noire, of a beautiful texture, and capable of a high polish, containing distinct and large concretions of white and green felspar."

Speaking of the junction between Great and Little Serk, Dr. MacCulloch says, "This narrow neck of land is traversed by a vein of porcelain clay, at its widest part, ten or twelve feet in thickness. In most places, this vein is much contaminated by purple, red, and yellow oxides of iron, and intersected by reticulations of quartz, which are probably the remains of veins running through the granite, from the decomposition of which, the porcelain clay appears to have originated. Grains of quartz are also found dispersed through it; and indeed, in many places, it seems to be little altered from its original granite. Towards the bottom of the vein, are various substances, among which, are coarse approaches to

chalcedony and agates; but the greater, and apparently the most interesting part of the vein, was inaccessible. In some places are veins of quartz having a slaty fracture, and becoming earthy, or much discoloured with iron, or containing modules rudely approaching to ocular agates. These are accompanied by mica and felspar, in various states of decomposition, apparently from the failure of the mica, and by veins of chlorite, containing here and there, pyrites, together with talc and quartz, and talcaceous schistus, and a mixture of greenish stratite of felspar and quartz. The rocks here also are of trap formation. The southern part of the island is formed of sienite, and in a general view, the western side is of trap and schistose formation, and the eastern of granite. Serk is intersected by veins of greater magnitude, and of a more decided character, than Guernsey, Jersey, or Alderney."

HERM AND JETHOU.

HERM.

This is but an islet, and must not be permitted to occupy much space. Herm lies about midway between Guernsey and Serk, and is of considerable service to the security of the shipping in Guernsey roads, by protecting them from the violence of the north-east winds. I have read somewhere, that Herm is very fruitful in corn and potatoes, and that its produce is greatly larger than its consumption. This I can well believe; for it would be indeed singular if an island nearly four miles in circumference, and containing some hundred acres of cultivated land, did no more than support the score of people who reside on it.

Herm is however but indifferently cultivated, and could be made greatly more profitable than it is. There is a good deal of land susceptible

of cultivation which is at present covered with furze; and the crops of barley which I saw, were scanty and evidently ill managed. Some attempts however, were making, to redeem land from the empire of furze, and wild mint, which everywhere grows in the greatest abundance; and I observed some stone enclosures newly raised. There was formerly, a considerable number of sheep on the island; and as on many parts, the sheep walks are unexceptionable, it is surprising that the proprietor should overlook so simple a mode of enriching himself. But every one, they say, has his hobby; and the working of stone quarries is the hobby of the present owner of Herm. When I visited Herm, several stone quarries were in process of being worked; and it is the opinion of the best informed, that under better management, these quarries might be made a source of profit; for to any one working them economically, there are many great advantages. There are of course no harbour dues; and the quarries lie so close to the beach, that there is no expense of carriage: the stone is of a good quality, and

abundant; and with these advantages, and with ordinary management, it ought certainly to yield a remunerating price. It was supposed some time ago, that a vein of copper was discovered: a mine was sunk, and worked several hundred yards; but nothing was obtained to repay the labourer,—or the speculator.

A little harbour has been constructed in the neighbourhood of the quarries, and large vessels are sometimes seen loading here.

The proprietor of Herm lives on the island. He has his house and his establishment there; and contrives to live without society. The only other houses excepting his, are those of a few agricultural labourers, and some miserable cottages for the quarriers. There is no lack of amusement however, of a certain kind in Herm. It abounds in wild rabbits; and besides the birds that frequent the other islands, a shot at a cormorant may sometimes be had. The rocks also, abound in shell fish; and shrimping parties from Guernsey, are accordingly of constant occurrence. This by the bye, is a favourite amusement in all

the islands, and is occasionally indulged in by persons of all ranks; and so various are tastes, in the matter of recreation, that I have seen individuals who found as much pleasure in wading for half a day, knee deep among rocks, to make capture of some handsfull of shrimps, as has ever been afforded to others in the pursuit of the deer or the fox.

But Herm possesses another attraction, which, during the summer, is the frequent source of pic-nic parties from Guernsey,—its shell beach. This beach, which extends from half a mile to three quarters of a mile, is one mass of shells; intermixed neither with pebbles nor sand. Dig with your hands as you may, there is still nothing but shells. Few I believe, that the conchologist would esteem valuable, are now to be found; and indeed, few perfect shells of any size, now remain. The shell beach is not of course composed of perfect shells, but of minute perfect shells, and fragments of larger shells. The minute shells are very pretty, and may be gathered in millions; and although I am no conchologist, and might

probably commit so great a heresy, as to estimate the value of shells by their beauty, I spent a long summer's day much to my mind in Herm, chiefly wandering on the shell beach,—lying on it,—digging my hands an arm's length down; and sifting, and examining, and pocketing. Nor must I omit the agreeable conversation of the intelligent individual who accompanied me,—or the contents of the basket which provided for our wants.

But I must not dismiss Herm and its shells, with so very slight a notice. In a little book,—a guide to Guernsey,—lately published, I find an enumeration of the shells found in Herm; and having ascertained that the enumeration has been furnished by a competent conchologist, I shall extract it. "The divisions of the order testacea, in these islands, extend to upwards of forty genera, embracing upwards of two hundred varieties. In multivalves, we have fine specimens of the chiton, the lepas, the pholas. In bivalves, the islands are rich in the mya, or trough shell; the solen, razor, sheath, or knife handle; the tellena, or

telen; the carduum, cockle, or heart shell; the mactra, or kneading trough; the donax, or wedge shell; the venus; the spondylus, thorny oyster, or artichoke; the chama; clamp, or gaper; the arca; the anomia, or antique lamp; the mytilus, the pinna, fin shell, or sea wing, &c.

"The univalve are still more abundant. We have great varieties of the conus: the cyprae, or coury; of the bulla; the voluta; buccinum; strombus; winged, or claw shell; the trochus; the turbo, or wreath; the nerita; the haliotis; the dentalium; the murex, &c.

We have little less than forty species of sponges, among which may be found, the spongea oculata; the spongea tormentosa; the spongea coronata; the spongea botrycides; the spongea lacustris, &c."

The island of Herm is also rich in corals and coralines; and there are also rare specimens of diminutive lobsters, cray fish, spider crab, &c.

I am myself no conchologist; but learning from competent judges, that the little island of Herm is richer in shells, than all the shores of

all the rest of the British islands, and that the shells found there, may be considered miniatures of the shells found in most other parts of the world, I thought it my duty to make the above enumeration, for the sake of the conchologist who may read these pages; and who may find so much gratification in a visit to Herm.

I am told however, that without visiting Herm the amateur collector may gratify his taste in Guernsey, by using his purse, in place of his spade; for both in the market, and in other parts of St. Peter's Port, shells are exposed for sale, and may be purchased for a trifle.

The scenery of Herm is no way remarkable. The island is too small to admit of valleys; there is scarcely any wood; and the cliffs, are not in general to be compared with those of the adjacent islands. At low water, a great extent of rocks is laid bare, as at Jersey; and it is one of the privileges of the inhabitants of Serk, where but little sea-weed is found, to gather the weed which grows on these rocks in great abundance, and of excellent quality.

Unless to those who can pleasantly dream away an hour on a shell beach, the attractions of Herm will scarcely repay a visit.

JETHOU.

JETHOU is separated from Herm by a narrow, but deep channel. This little islet is about a mile and a quarter in circumference; and although diminutive even in comparison with Herm, it boasts a better house, and a greater number of trees. The proprietor of Jethou, who is a wealthy man, but whose wealth I need scarcely say, does not arise from his possession of Jethou, resides constantly on the island,—never leaving it unless to paddle in his boat across the straight that separates him from his neighbour the proprietor of Herm. With the exception of an orchard, there is little of Jethou under cultivation: the rest is in fact, a rabbit warren. This orchard however, is extremely productive, and is said to supply the proprietor and his friends with excellent cider.

Jethou is a picturesque object seen from almost any point. It is very elevated for its size, and excepting at one spot, its sides are everywhere precipitous. Two very small rocky islets, both accessible from Jethou at low water, stand about fifty yards distant from it,—but at opposite sides of the island, also add considerably to the picturesqueness of the scene.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

THE CONSTITUTIONS OF KING JOHN.

Inquisitio facta de Servitiis, Consuetudinibus, et Libertatibus insul. de Gerese et Guernese, et Legibus constitutis in Insulis per Dominum Johannem Regem, per Sacramentum Roberti Blondel, Radulphi Burnel, &c. qui dicunt, &c.

Constitutiones et Provisiones constitute per Dominum Johannem Regem, postquam Normannia alienata fuit.

Imprimis, constituit Duodecim Coronatores Juratos, ad Placita et Jura ad Coronam spectantia custodienda.

II. Costituit etiam et concessit pro securitate Insularium, quod Ballivus de cetero per visum dictorum Coronatorum poterit placitare absque Brevi de Novâ Disseisinâ factâ infrà annum, de

Morte Antecessoris infrà annum, de Dote similiter infrà annum, de Feodo invadiato semper, de Incumbreio Maritagij, &c.

III. Ii debent eligi de Indigenis Insularum, per Ministros Domini Regis, et Optimates Patrie; scillicet post Mortem unius eorum, alter fide dignus, vel alio casu legitimo, debet substitui.

IV. Electi debent jurare sine conditione, ad manutenendum et salvandum jura Domini Regis et Patriotarum.

V. Ipsi Duodecim in qualibet Insulâ, in absentiâ Justiciariorum, et unà cum Justiciariis cùm ad Partes illas venerint, debent judicare de omnibus casibus in dictâ Insulâ qualitercunque emergentibus, exceptis Casibus nimis arduis, et si quis legitimè convictus fuerit a Fidelitate Domini Regis tanquam Proditor recessisse, vel manus injecisse violentas in Ministros Domini Regis modo debito Officium exercendo.

VI. Ipsi Duodecim debent Emendas sive Amerciamenta omnium premissorum taxare, predictis tamen arduis Casibus exceptis, aut aliis Casibus in quibus secundùm Consuetudinem Insularum

merè spectat redemptio pro voluntate Domini Regis et Curie sue.

VII. Si Dominus Rex velit certiorari de Recordo Placiti coram Justiciariis et ipsis Duodecim agitati, Justiciarii cum ipsis Duodecim debent Recordum facere; et de Placitis agitatis coram Ballivo et ipsis Juratis in dictis Insulis, ipsi debent Recordum facere conjunctim.

VIII. Quod nullum Placitum infrà quamlibet dictarum Insularum coram quibuscunque Justiciariis inceptum, debet extrà dictam Insulam adjornari, sed ibidem omninò terminari.

IX. Insuper constituit quod nullus de libero Tenemento suo, quod per annum et diem pacificè tenuerit, sinè Brevi Domini Regis de Cancellariâ, de Tenente et Tenemento faciente mentionem, respondere debeat vel teneatur.

X. Quod nullus pro Feloniâ damnatus extrà Insulas prædictas, Hereditates suas infrâ Insulas forisfacere potest, quin Heredes sui eas habeant.

XI. Item, si quis forisfecerit, et abjuraverit Insulam, et postea Dominus Rex pacem suam ei concesserit, et infrà annum et diem abjurationis

revertatur ad Insulam, de Hereditate suâ plenariè debet restitui.

XII. Item, quod nullus debet imprisonari in Castro nisi in Casu criminali, vitam vel membrum tangente, et hoc per Judicium Duodecim Coronatorum Juratorum, sed in aliis liberis Prisonis ad hoc deputatis.

XIII. Item, quod Dominus Rex nullum Prépositum ibidem prohibere debeat nisi per electionem Patriotarum.

XIV. Item, Constitutum est, quod Insulani non debeant coram Justiciariis ad Assisas capiendas assignatis, seu alia Placita tenenda, respondere, antequam transcripta Commissionum eorundem sub Sigillis suis eis liberentur.

XV. Item, quod Justiciarii per Commissionem Domini Regis ad Assisas capiendas ibidem assignati, non debent tenere Placita in qualibet dictarum Insularum, ultrà Spatium trium Septimanarum.

XVI. Item, quod ipsi Insulani coram dictis Justiaciariis post tempus predictum venire non tenentur.

XVII. Item, quod ipsi non tenentur Domini

Regi Homagium facere, donec ipse Dominus Rex ad Partes illas, seu infrà Ducatum Normannie venerit, aut aliquem alium per Literas suas assignare voluerit in iisdem Partibus, ad predictum Homagium nomine suo ibidem recipiendum.

XVIII. Item, Statutum est pro tuitione et salvatione Insularum et Castrorum, et maximè quia Insule propè sunt, et juxtà protestam Regis Francie, et aliorum inimicorum suorum, quod omnes Portus Insularum benè custodirentur; et Custodes Portuum Dominus Rex constituere precipit, ne damna sibi et suis eveniant.

TRANSLATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH'S CHARTER.—*(Guernsey.)*

Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

I. To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:—Whereas our loving and faithful liege subjects, the Bailiff and the Jurats of our Island of Guernsey, and the other sojourners in, and inhabitants of the said Island, as well as of our Islands of Aureneye, alias Alderney, and Serk,

within the Duchy of Normandy, and their predecessors, have from time immemorial (beyond what the memory of men can reach), by virtue of several charters, grants, confirmations, and most princely writs, of our illustrious progenitors and predecessors, the Kings of England and Dukes of Normandy, and others, have used, enjoyed, and been in possession of, very many rights, jurisdictions, privileges, immunities, liberties, and franchises, freely, quietly, and without any infringement of the same, as well within the kingdom of England, as elsewhere within our dominions, and other places under our subjection, on this side of, or beyond, the seas; by the aid and benefit of which grants, the Islands and the maritime places aforesaid have stood out loyally, and continued unblameably in our service, and have enjoyed and gone on in their commerce and trade with merchants, both natives and aliens, as well in time of peace, as in time of war, and exercised and executed their duties in giving their decrees, and taking cognisance of all and every cause, quarrel, action, both civil and criminal,

and capital pleas; and the right of jurisdiction they were vested with, to take into their consideration, to decide, discuss, hear, and determine, and to proceed in the premises, and keep records of their proceedings according to the laws and customs practised of old, and approved in the said Islands and other places aforesaid; except in certain cases reserved from time to time to our royal cognisance:

II. And we considering of how great advantage and moment all and singular the premises are, and have been, toward the safe-keeping and conservation of the said Islands and other maritime places in their fidelity and allegiance to our crown of England; and being always mindful (as is just) how courageously and loyally the said islanders and inhabitants have behaved themselves in our own and in our progenitors' service:

III. And considering further what dangers they have gone through, and what great detrements and losses they have sustained, and do daily sustain, not only for the constant defence of the said Islands and territories, but likewise for the

recovery and the preservation of our Castle of Mont Orgueil, in the Island of Jersey;—to the end, not only to shew some distinguished testimony and certain marks of our favour, affection, and royal beneficence towards the inhabitants aforesaid, but also to encourage them, and their posterity for ever, to persevere and continue inviolably in their accustomed and due obedience towards us, and our heirs and successors; we have thought proper to grant to them these our royal letters patent, confirmed under the great seal of England, in form following:—

IV. Know ye therefore, that we, of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have given and granted, and for ourselves, our heirs and successors, we do by these presents give and grant, to the said Bailiff and Jurats of our Island of Guernsey aforesaid, and to the other sojourners and inhabitants, as well of the said Island, as of other Islands aforesaid, of Auregney, alias Alderney, and Serk: that they and every one of them (though not herein stated or declared by their particular names) shall, for the time to come, be

for ever free, exempted, and acquitted, in all our cities, boroughs, markets, and trading towns, fairs, mart-towns, and other places and ports, within our kingdom of England, and within all our provinces, dominions, territories, and other places under our subjection, within our realms, or beyond the seas, from all tributes, tolls, customs, subsidies, hidage, taylage, pontage, panage, murage, fossage, works, and warlike expeditions (except in case the body of our Royal Sovereign the Queen, her heirs and successors, should be taken, and put in prison, which God avert), and of and from all other contributions and exactions whatsoever, that may be due and payable by, and claimed from, the said islanders, or any of them, to us, our heirs and successors, in any manner, by virtue of any charters, grants, confirmations, and princely writs of our said progenitors, formerly Kings of England and Dukes of Normandy, or others, or by virtue or reason of any legal and reasonable usage, prescriptions, or customs.

V. And whereas, some other privileges, jurisdictions, immunities, liberties, and franchises,

were graciously given, granted, and confirmed from time immemorial (from the time whereof the memory of men reacheth not to the contrary,) by our progenitors and predecessors, formerly Kings of England and Dukes of Normandy, and others, to the said islanders, have been used and observed constantly in the said Islands and other maritime places; one whereof is, that in time of war the merchants of all nations, whether aliens, born in or out of the said Islands, both friends and enemies, could and might freely, lawfully, without danger or punishment, come to, resort unto, go to and fro, and frequent the said Islands, and other aforesaid maritime places, with their ships, merchandises, and goods; as well to avoid storms, as to exercise their free commerce, trade, and traffic, and afterwards securely, and without danger, remain there, and depart away from thence, and return into the same, when they think fit, without any harm, molestation, or hostility whatsoever, in their goods, merchandises, or persons; and this not only within the said Islands and maritime places, and all around

the same, but likewise at such spaces and distances from the Islands as the sight of man goes to, or the eye of man reaches: We, by virtue of our royal authority, do, for ourselves, our heirs and successors, renew, reiterate, confirm, and graciously grant the same immunities, impunities, liberties, and privileges last mentioned, to the said Bailiffs and Jurats, merchants, and others, whether they are in war or amity with us; and to all others, inhabitants, and aliens, and sojourners aforesaid in the said Islands, in as ample form and manner as heretofore they have used and enjoyed the same. In order therefore to prevent any violation or infraction of this our grant, concession, and confirmation, or anything therein contained, in any manner whatsoever, we declare and give this warning by these presents to all our officers and subjects in all parts of our kingdom of England, and throughout all our realms and dominions under our obedience, wheresoever they lie, or are situated. And if any one of our said officers and subjects shall be so rash as to presume or attempt to transgress

these our strict orders and commands, we order and decree (as far as in us lies), that he shall be severely punished for his audacious contempt of our royal power, and disobedience to our laws; and shall be compelled to make a full restitution and satisfaction of all costs, interests, and damages, and prosecuted by all due process and forms of law for the same.'

VI. Further, we, out of the most gracious favour, do, by these presents, ratify, approve, establish, and confirm, all and every one of the laws and customs which have been duly and legally in ancient times practised, received, and approved within the said Islands; giving and granting to the said Bailiff and Jurats, and all magistrates and officers of justice, and all others who are appointed for performing the functions and executing the duties of any office, full and absolute authority, power, and faculty to have the cognisance, jurisdiction, and judgment concerning and touching all and all sorts of pleas, processes, law-suits, actions, quarrels, and causes arising within the said Islands and maritime

places; as well those actions which are real, personal, or mixed, as those which are criminal and capital, and to proceed in the said Islands, and not elsewhere, in hearing the parties in their pleadings, and prosecutions of their processes, in their defence; and to hear, examine, and supersede the same, making decrees, determining, absolving, condemning, and putting their sentences in execution, according to the laws and customs theretofore practised and approved in the said Island and maritime places; without admitting any challenge or appeal, except in such cases as are reserved to our royal cognisance by the ancient customs of the Island and places aforesaid. Which authority, power, and faculty, (except in the cases reserved to us), we commit, give, grant, and confirm, for ourselves and our heirs and successors, to the said Bailiffs and Jurats, by these presents, as freely, fully, and entirely, as the said Bailiffs and Jurats, or others or any of them, heretofore have rightfully and lawfully used, practised, and enjoyed, or might legally have used and enjoyed.

VII. Moreover, our will and pleasure is, and we grant, for ourselves, our heirs and successors by these presents, to the said Bailiffs and Jurats, and all other inhabitants and sojourners in the said Isles and maritime places, that for the time to come, none of them be cited, or summoned, or drawn into any law suit, or forced in any manner by any writs or process, issued from any of our courts of the kingdom of England, to appear and answer before any judges, courts, or other officers of justice, out of any of the said Islands and maritime places, touching or concerning any thing, dispute, causes, or matters in controversy whatsoever, arising in the said Islands: But that the said inhabitants in general, and each of them in particular, may lawfully, notwithstanding the said writs and processes, remain, reside quietly, and abide in those Islands, waiting for justice there; without incurring any punishment, corporal or pecuniary, by way of fine, mulct, ransom, or forfeiture, by reason of any offence, contempt, or contumacy, committed towards us, our heirs and successors, for which they might be sued,

arraigned, or condemned; except only in the cases which by the laws and customs of the Island are reserved to our royal cognisance and determination.

VIII. And moreover, of our more gracious favour, certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have given, granted, and confirmed, and by these our letters patent, for ourselves, our heirs and successors, (as far as in us lieth), we do give, grant, and confirm to the said Bailiff and Jurats, and other inhabitants of, and sojourners in, the said Islands and maritime places; as also to merchants and other persons resorting and meeting there, the like, and as great, and as ample rights, jurisdictions, immunities, impunities, indemnities, exemptions, liberties, franchises, and privileges whatsoever, as the said Bailiff and Jurats, and all other sojourners, inhabitants, and merchants, or any of them, have heretofore rightfully and legally used, practised, and enjoyed; and all and every other thing that has been given, granted, and confirmed heretofore, by our own letters patent, or in any other charters or letters patent

of us or our progenitors, formerly Kings of England, or Dukes of Normandy, and not revoked or abolished, by whatsoever name or names the said Bailiff and Jurats, and other inhabitants of, or sojourners in, the Islands and maritime places aforesaid, or any of them, may be supposed to have been comprised, called, or named, or ought to have been called or named, in the said patents, and all and singular which things, though not herein expressly mentioned, we do by these presents confirm, consolidate, and ratify anew to the said Bailiff and Jurats, inhabitants, and sojourners, and all others, born in these Islands, or that were born out of these Islands, merchants meeting and coming together to trade in the said Islands, as fully, freely, and entirely, as if all and singular the things particularly mentioned and declared in the same letters patent were particularly and expressly recited and declared in these our letters patent.

IX. Saving always entire and without detriment the regal power, dominion, and empire of our crown of England, as to what may concern

the allegiance, subjection, and obedience of the said islanders, and all other persons, whoever they may be, dwelling for a shorter or a longer time in the same Island; and also as to what may concern the regalities, privileges, incomes, revenues, tributes, and other rights, profits, commodities, emoluments, anciently due and accustomed to be paid to us, our heirs and successors, by our royal prerogative as Kings of England, or the prerogative of the Duchy of Normandy; saving also to the said islanders, and others dwelling or being in the said islands, a right to appeal in all cases reserved to our cognisance and consideration by the laws and customs of the said Island; but in no other case: Notwithstanding any sentence, clause, thing, or matter whatsoever expressed above, or specially contained to the contrary in these presents.

X. Lastly, our pleasure is, and by these presents we grant, that the said Bailiff and Jurats, and other sojourners and inhabitants of the said Islands; as also the traders, and other persons who resort unto, and come there, may from time

to time require and have these our letters patents made and sealed under our great seal of England, without rendering or paying to our use or benefit, any fine or fee, great or small, in our hanaper, or elsewhere to our use, for the same.

XI. And that although express mention of the true annual value, or of the certainty of the premises, or any of them, or of the other gifts or grants by us or any of our predecessors to the aforesaid Bailiff and Jurats, and other inhabitants or dwellers in the said Islands, or their predecessors, or to any of them, before this time made, be not mentioned in these presents, or any statute, act, ordinance, proviso, or restriction to the contrary thereof, made, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

In testimony whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the fifteenth day of March, in the second year of our reign, by the Queen herself, and by the aforesaid authority given by Parliament.

COMPARATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE FERTILITY OF SOIL, IN JERSEY AND IN ENGLAND.

The standard cabot of the island for wheat, and for that grain alone, measures fourteen inches and a quarter wide, and eight inches and a quarter deep, English measure; consequently it contains 1315,7536 cubic inches.

A legal Winchester bushel measures eighteen inches and a half wide, and eight inches deep; it therefore contains 2150,4252 cubic inches.

The average produce of wheat per acre, in Essex and in Hampshire, has been estimated at 24 bushels, each weighing from 60 to 64 pounds avoirdupois. The Rev. Mr. Warner, in his history of the Isle of Wight, makes the average in that island only 21 bushels. 24 bushels, at 62 pounds each, make 1488 pounds.

In Jersey the average on different articles is as follows:

Wheat	30 cabots, each weighing	30	Pounds Jersey weight per vergée.
Barley	26	36	
Oats	30	27	
Potatoes	300	40	

The utmost produce of wheat may be taken at

40 cabots, though in 1813 the utmost produce, on the best land, was 50 cabots of 33 pounds each.

There is a difference between the pound avoirdupois and that of Jersey, ·104 of the latter being considered as fully equal to 112 of the former; therefore 13 Jersey pounds are equivalent to 14 pounds avoirdupois.

Calculating on the above estimates, a Winchester bushel of Jersey wheat will weigh full 49 Jersey pounds, or nearly 52 pounds 13 ounces avoirdupois.

As two vergées and a quarter are equal to one statute acre, the average produce of Jersey wheat, at 30 pounds per cabot, will be 2025 Jersey pounds, or nearly 2181 pounds avoirdupois, per acre.

The results from the foregoing estimates are interesting: they prove that Jersey wheat is lighter than English wheat, in the proportion of 52 pounds 13 ounces to 62 pounds: but that the produce of wheat from the Jersey soil, exceeds that of England in the proportion of 2181 to 1488. Great however as this excess is, the same dispro-

portion in the quantity of flour will, it is presumed, not exist; because the Jersey grain being lighter, has probably a greater proportion of husk, or bran; still the difference in the quantity of flour must be very considerable.

The cabot in which barley and every other kind of grain, (wheat excepted,) pease, beans, potatoes, &c. are measured, is more capacious than that used for wheat, the proportion requiring 4 of the latter to fill three of the former. The preceding estimates of barley, oats, and potatoes, must therefore be regulated accordingly.

In addition to the excess in Jersey wheat, it must be considered, that both in England and the Isle of Wight, farming is carried on with great attention; whereas in Jersey, several material advantages are either wanting or neglected.

The informations from England respecting potatoes vary so much, that it is difficult to fix a proper average. One account states the average produce of an acre to be 400 bushels, at 74 pounds per bushel, or 29,600 pounds. A statement respecting the Isle of Wight is, from 60 to 80 sacks;

taking this at the medium of 70, the produce at 74 pounds per bushel, will amount to only 15,540 pounds. This estimate is considered as too low, the other as considerably too high: perhaps 20,000 pounds would be a fairer average.

The Jersey produce of potatoes is after the rate of 27,000 Jersey pounds, or nearly 29,077 English pounds per acre; so that in this article also, the difference is in favour of Jersey.

The general crop of hay is averaged at about one ton per vergée, which must also be deemed a very considerable produce. The aftermath is sometimes mown, but more usually grazed.

A few calculations deducible from the foregoing estimates, and that may be useful in Jersey, are now subjoined.

It requires about 13 one-fourteenth cabots of wheat to make an English quarter.

An English quarter of English wheat, contains.....	496	Pounds Avoirdupois.
One of Jersey wheat, contains..	452$\frac{1}{2}$	
Deficiency.....	43$\frac{1}{2}$	

The produce of Jersey wheat from an acre, is about 41 three-fourteenth English bushel.

ABSTRACT OF LAWS IN JERSEY.

CRIMINAL LAWS.

The crimes punishable with death, which is inflicted by hanging, are murder, rape, arson, robbery on the high way, and burglary.

When sentence of death is awarded by the court, it is always carried into immediate execution, unless the condemned is recommended to the mercy of the king; in which case the punishment is deferred until the royal pleasure is received.

Whenever capital punishment is inflicted on a prisoner, or he is sentenced to the pillory or banishment for five or more years, his estate, real and personal, is forfeited to the crown.

Treason is reserved for the cognisance of the king in council; the court not being competent to pronounce on the crime, or even to examine witnesses on the charge.

Forgery is punished by exposition in the pillory.

Manslaughter by fine, imprisonment or banishment, according to circumstances.

Cutting and maiming, termed maihem in the

old Norman code, subjects the offender to corporal punishment in addition, in aggravated cases.

Larceny is punished by imprisonment, public whipping or banishment, at the discretion of the court.

In many of these cases it was formerly a practise to cut off the lower part of the offender's ear; but this custom, so repugnant to the feelings of the age, has been of late disused, though it is not abolished.

Felo de se is followed by the confiscation of property; and the body is buried without the ceremonies of the church.

Libel and slander are not prosecuted by indictment: but the party aggrieved may either proceed with the king's procureur, or attorney-general, in which case the defendant, if found guilty, may be mulcted in a fine to the king and damages to the prosecutor, or an action may be brought on the case for civil damages alone; in either mode of proceeding the defendant may plead a justification in bar of the action.

Assaults may be prosecuted criminally when

they are of a serious nature, or committed on the king's high-way; the culprit is then fined and imprisoned: or the complainant may be joined with the attorney-general in the prosecution; in which case a fine to the king is imposed without imprisonment, and civil damages are given for the benefit of the injured party.

CIVIL LAWS.

Civil causes are also decided by laws which owe their origin to the Norman feudal system.

Tenures are mostly fee simple. The law of inheritance with respect to the descent of estates does not vary in any great degree from that which in the time of Lyttleton was observed in England. In the division of property, the eldest son, or daughter in failure of male issue, is entitled to a certain portion of the estate together with the principal house, to discharge the seigneurial services and ground rent, payable in corn, imposed by the original lords of the soil on its donation to a vassal, and to indemnify him for those military supplies which every estate is bound to furnish

according to its extent, if the defence of the island should require them. He is also to defray all other ground rents, which, although now payable in money, may have been due upon the estate for forty years: but is privileged to claim the avenues leading to the principal house, to a certain number of vergées of land, and to one on every ten comprehended in the estate, as his right from primogeniture.

These claims having been satisfied, two thirds of what remains are divided amongst all the sons, and one third amongst the daughters, in equal proportions; each being charged with their respective portions of any other mortgages that may be due upon the property.

No real property is divisable by will.

Conveyances of real property are in Jersey termed contracts. They are prepared on parchment, without stamp, by the attornies of the parties, and enrolled in the Royal Court, which is called "passing a contract." On some court days, fifty or sixty of these, with the parties concerned, are presented at the Royal Court. The

expenses attending these contracts are trifling, and form a great contrast to those in England.

A widow claims as her dower one third of the estate owned by her husband.

A widower enjoys at his wife's death, if there have been children, her real estate until he marries again; but it then reverts to her next of kin, as it does if there has been no issue.

A wife may reclaim at her husband's death her estate if sold or encumbered by him without her sanction being expressed by a participation in the deed: should she die first, her heirs have the same privilege.

In bastardy a material distinction exists between the laws of England and Jersey. Whilst in England they are for ever under legal disability, in Jersey, the humane regulation (derived from a Norman custom), is, that bastards become legitimate offspring in law, if the parents afterwards intermarry and acknowledge them; and provided that the parties were unmarried at the birth of such child or children. So that the innocent children do not suffer for paternal guilt;

but it appears an undecided question, whether a son so previously produced would inherit, in preference to one born subsequently to the marriage.

It is supposed that there is no part of his majesty's dominions, where bigamy is so prevalent as in Jersey and in Guernsey; and it can only be accounted for from the fact, that the civil law as practised in the islands, does not recognise it as an offence; and even if it did, it would be only in case both marriages took place in their own jurisdiction. Bigamists have sufficient precaution to marry the second wife or husband, in a different jurisdiction to the first. For instance, a person may contract a first marriage in England, or elsewhere, a second in Guernsey, a third in Jersey, and a fourth in France, and vice versa, and in consequence of each country having separate laws and independent jurisdiction, put the injured parties at defiance to obtain redress in either of the two islands.

A father cannot give, except during his life, a greater share of his landed property to any one child than the law specifies. His donation may

be annulled by an action commenced within a year and a day after his disease.

All sales of land belonging to minors may be revoked by them coming of age.

The holders of estates owe homage to the lords of the manors, and when they are required, are obliged to deliver into the baronial court an account of the lands they possess, under the penalty of a seizure of their property, to be held until the contempt is cleared. The lords in collateral successions, enjoy the estate of the deceased for one year.

The undisturbed possession of an estate for forty years, forms a good and sufficient title.

If an estate is overcharged with mortgages, the cessio bonorum, or relinquishment of property, is allowed to the mortgager. The morgagees institute proceedings to establish their claims, which last for a year, during which time the lord of the manor holds the estate of the insolvent. It is then demanded of the last mortagee whether he will take the estate and make good all the preceding claims upon it; if he refuses, his own

claim upon the estate is altogether cancelled, and a similar offer is made to the next in succession; and the estate continues to be rotatively so offered, until, the overcharge having been thus cleared off, a mortgagee is found willing to take possession of the estate, and guarantee the claims of the rest. But however hard this may appear upon the last creditors, it must be remembered that, all mortgages being registered, the charges due upon every estate are learnt with the greatest facility.

The tenure of land purchased with cash only, cannot be considered stable until the expiration of a year and a day; as in the intermediate time the nearest relations of the seller, or the lord of the manor, are privileged by the law of retraite, or pre-emption, to take the estate from the buyer on repaying him the purchase money. But the lapse of time above specified debars them from the right. If, however, the estate is bought with rents, the sale is not to be questioned, as the law then views it as an exchange of real property, rather than as a purchase.

A wife is entitled at the death of her husband to half of his personal property if he leaves no children: but only to one third if there should be issue. One third is then the portion of the children, and one third is disposable at the pleasure of the testator. A widower without children may distribute all his money in any way.

The personal property of intestates is divided equally when there are only sons, or only daughters; but when there are both, the sons are entitled to two thirds, and the daughters share the remainder.

In all collateral successions the real and the unbequeathed personal property lapses to the nearest relations in capitem, and not per stirpem; and to the males in exclusion of the females, in the same degree of relationship.

Ten years is the term of limitation on actions of debt, and on bonds and other simple contracts.

Persons are liable to arrest in Jersey for any sum, even a few shillings, for book debt, bill, bond or rent: the pursuer or sheriff can take body or goods, as he thinks proper, but cannot take

both. Money found in the house or lodged in a bank can be arrested, but not money carried about the person. Arrests for security on notes of hand not due, and rent accruing, are likewise made.

Persons are liable to arrest for any book debt, bill, bond, rent or lease, contracted in England or elsewhere, either by the creditor following the debtor, and suing him in person, or by sending a power of attorney to some friend or professional man. Evidence of the debt by personal attendance of witnesses, or acknowledgement in writing, properly authenticated, is necessary. Debts contracted in Jersey, can be recovered in Guernsey by power of attorney, and vice versa, but in England, only by following the debtor, &c. Persons are arrested in Jersey for debt, without any proof or affidavit, and in default of bail, (either of one person of known landed property, or a deposit of the money,) committed to prison. The debtor is brought up the next court day, when the case is heard, and the arrest confirmed or quashed. If confirmed, the debtor is remanded to prison until the debt is paid, together with the costs.

Persons giving bail upon any arrest, must take care to present their bail in court, because although the bailed may appear, he is still liable to the same consequence as if he was absent unless the bail is with him.

Bankrupts who have not surrendered to their commission in England, may be apprehended in Jersey by the commissioners' warrant, accompanied by the secretary of state's mandate indorsed by the bailiff.

Persons accepting promisory bills in this island, cannot be sued for them in England, if drawn for "Jersey currency." In a recent case in the Court of King's Bench, where a person was sued for a bill accepted in this island for Jersey currency, the judge quashed the action, as there was no such coin in England.

Bona fide, viva voce examination, is resorted to only in cases of comparatively minor importance, and whenever the life of a fellow creature is at stake—whenever a sum in dispute is at all considerable—the examination of witnesses takes place, in civil cases, on written interrogatories.

When examination takes place on written interrogatories, neither the parties nor the counsel are present. The interrogatories are prepared by the counsel of the party by whom the witness is brought forward, and are communicated to the counsel on the other side, previous to the examination.

Persons discharged in England under the act of debtors, cannot in person nor property be made liable in Jersey for debts contracted in the island, provided such debts were inserted in their schedules.

All encroachments on property, and all civil injuries which require a prompt remedy, may be resisted by the Clameur de Haro; after which an action is brought. This singular exclamation, the form of which is Haro, Haro, Haro, à l'aide mon Prince, was only made use of in the duchy of Normandy, as it existed on its first constitution, on occasions of great peril or consequence, and was an appeal made to Rollo for justice and protection as the founder of the laws, and preserver of the rights of the people. The word

Hero is compounded of Ha! an earnest ejaculation, and of a contraction of the name of the duke. But much as it was formerly respected in Normandy, it is to this day no less absolute here: it is an instantaneous check which cannot be disputed, and one of the parties must be fined.

There are game laws in Jersey. Every person has the right to sport with gun and dogs without licence, but is liable to actions for trespasses wilfully committed on the property of those whose lands are passed.

STATEMENT of the civil and military establishments maintained by Great Britain in the island of Jersey, during the last war with France, distinguishing the rank and situations of the persons employed, with the annual amount of their salaries and emoluments; also the pay of the troops in garrison, including their military allowances and contingent expenses as far as they can be obtained at the present period, with a brief recapitulation of various heads of expenditure the amount of which cannot be, with any degree of accuracy, ascertained.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER OF THE FORCES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pay as Lieut. Governor	182	10	0			
Staff pay as Lt. General	1383	19	2			
Regimental pay as Col.	410	12	6			
Allowance for hire of furniture.....	250	0	0			
Alllowance in lieu of rent of canteens....	365	0	0			
Bat. and forage money.	142	10	0			
Forage for 8 horses....	438	0	0			
Clerks, stationery, and postage, about.....	250	0	0			
				3422	11	8

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over.....				3422	11	8

MAJOR GENERAL ON THE STAFF.

Staff pay as Maj. Gen.	691	19	7			
Regt. pay as Lieut Col.	310	5	0			
Lodging money.....	200	0	0			
Bat. and forage money.	114	0	0			
Forage for 6 horses....	328	10	0			
Stationery, and postage, about.....	20	0	0			
				1634	14	7

TWO MAJORS OF BRIGADE.

Staff pay.....	345	15	0			
Pay as Captain.....	182	10	0			
Old half-day as do.....	91	5	0			
Lodging money.....	109	4	0			
Bat. and forage money.	38	0	0			
Forage for 6 horses....	328	10	0			
One clerk.....	18	5	0			
Stationery, and postage, about.....	20	0	0			
				1133	9	0

THREE AIDES-DE-CAMP.

Staff pay.....	518	12	6			
Regt. pay as Captain...	355	17	6			
Lodging money.....	163	16	0			
Bat. and forage.....	57	0	0			
Forage for 9 horses....	583	0	0			
				1678	6	0
Carried over.....				7869	1	3

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over.....				7869	1	3
FORT MAJOR.						
Garrison pay.....	82	2	6			
Half-pay as Lieut.....	82	2	6			
Lodging money.....	91	7	5			
Forage for 1 horse.....	54	15	0			
				250	7	5
STAFF SURGEON.						
Pay.....	182	10	0			
Lodging.....	39	0	0			
Bat. and forage.....	9	10	0			
Forage for 2 horses....	109	10	0			
				416	1	3
GARRISON CHAPLAIN.						
Pay.....	182	10	0			
Lodging money.....	27	6	0			
Forage for 1 horse.....	54	15	0			
To officiating clergymen being rectors of parishes.....	350	0	0			
				614	11	0
QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL.						
Staff pay.....	172	17	6			
Regt. pay as captains ..	182	10	0			
Lodging money.....	52	12	0			
Forage for 2 horses....	109	10	0			
Clerk.....	48	12	6			
Average, stationery, and postage.....	30	0	0			
				598	2	0
Carried over.....				9748	8	11

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over..				9748	8	11
DEPUTY PAYMASTER GENERAL.						
Pay.....	547	10	0			
Lodging money.....	106	6	0			
Forage for 2 horses....	109	10	0			
Clerk.....	127	15	0			
Average, stationery, and postage.....	50	0	0			
				940	15	0
ASSISTANT COMMISSARY GENERAL.						
Pay.....	260	1	3			
Lodging.....	27	6	0			
Forage for 2 horses....	109	10	0			
Clerk.....	127	15	0			
Average, stationery, and postage.....	50	12	3			
				574	12	3
STOREKEEPERS OF CAMP EQUIPAGE.						
Pay.....	52	4	0			
Hire of a store.....	60	0	0			
				112	4	0
ONE COLONEL BEING COMMANDING ROYAL ENGINEER.						
Pay..... Extra pay and servants Forage for 4 horses..	850	0	0	850	0	0
CAPTAIN OF ENGINEER.						
Pay..... Extra pay..... Forage for 1 horse... Lodging money.....	383	3	6	383	3	6
Carried over.....				12609	3	8

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over.....				12609	3	8
TWO LIEUTENANTS OF ENGINEERS.						
Extra pay.....						
Forage for 2 horses..	602	2	0			
Lodging money.....				602	2	0
MILITARY DRAFTSMAN.						
Pay.....	219	0	0			
Forage for 1 horse.....	54	15	0			
				273	15	0
SUPERINTENDANT OR OVERSEER OF WORKS.						
Pay.....	182	10	0			
Lodging, not known.						
				182	10	0
Clerk of works.....				122	0	0
Assistant clerk.....				51	0	0
Office keeper.....				36	0	0
Master carpenter.....						
Master mason.....				328	10	0
Master blacksmith.....						
ORDNANCE STOREKEEPER.						
Pay and allowances....	427	0	0			
Forage for 1 horse.....	54	15	0			
				481	15	0
Clerk of the chequer.....				388	10	0
Clerk of the ordnance.....				173	6	0
Clerk.....				90	0	0
Chaplain.....				12	13	4
Carried over.....				15351	5	0

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over.....				15351	5	0
Office keeper.....				13	0	10
Armourer.....				60	16	8
Master Cooper.....				60	16	8
Master Carpenter				60	16	8
Rents paid annually on ordnance lands.....				158	14	0
Ordnance boatmen, and labour, as about the office, say.....				300	0	0
Rent of ordnance office, &c.				140	0	0

BARRACK MASTER.

Pay.....	292	0	0			
House Rent.....	25	0	0			
Forage for 1 horse.....	54	15	0			
	371	15	0			
Two assistant barrack masters' pay.....	375	0	0			
Three clerks of works.	602	5	0			
Five barrack sergeants.	145	0	0			
Two barrack labourers	72	0	0			
Two allowances of coals for barrack master...						
One subaltern's allowance for each of the barrack sergeants....						
Rent of barrack office..	120	0	0			
Stationery, &c. about..	80	0	0			
				1766	0	0
Carried over.....				17911	9	10

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over.....				17911	9	10

ISLAND MILITIA STAFF.

INSPECTOR OF MILITIA.

Pay.....	547	0	0
Lodgings.....	81	18	0
Forage for 4 horses....	219	0	0
Clerk.....	45	12	6
	893	10	6

12 ASSISTANT INSPECTORS.

Pay.....	871	6	6
Forage for 1 horse.....	657	0	0

INSPECTOR JERSEY MILITIA ARTILLERY.

Pay.....	182	10	0
Forage for 1 horse.....	54	15	0
13 Drill Sergeants.....	593	2	6
			3252 4 6

JERSEY TROOP OF CAVALRY.

1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants, 45 Corporals and Privates—Pay..2364 17 11

[These men were farmers: six of the troop mounted a guard daily at the Governor's, for the purpose of carrying messages; after which they returned to their homes, until it came again their turn for duty. They never were disciplined as cavalry.]

Carried over.....23528 12 3

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over				23528	12	3
The Jersey militia were clothed and accoutred, every five years, in time of war, at a charge of £12366 19s. 5d. per annum				2460	7	10
12 SIGNAL STATIONS.						
Annual expense.....				2125	0	0
ROYAL ARTILLERY.						
2 Captains, 3 Subalterns, 1 Lieut. of Invalids, 1 Surgeon, 145 non-commissioned officers, gunners, and drivers, 47 invalid gunners, 1 master gunner—Pay.....				5310	12	3
MILITARY ARTIFICERS.						
1 subaltern, 43 non-commissioned officers and artificers—Pay.....				1248	16	8
STAFF CORPS.						
1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 42 non-commissioned officers & privates—Pay.				1620	17	2
INFANTRY OF THE LINE.						
24 field officers, 80 captains, 240 subalterns, 8 adjutants, 8 quartermasters, 8 paymasters, 8 surgeons, 8 assistant surgeons, 4838 non-commissioned officers, drummers, and rank and file—Pay. . . .				161635	4	0
Carried over. . . .				197929	10	2

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over				197929	10	2
9 regimental schools.				90	0	0
Stationery and postage for 8 battal. at £90 each				720	0	0
Contingent allowance to 82 captains, including the captains commanding the artillery and the staff corps				3136	10	0
Targets for each corps, at £14 each				112	0	0
Oil and emery money for 4358 rank & file of infantry, at 2s. 9d. p. man				599	4	3
9 hospital sergeants, at 6d. each. .				82	2	6
9 do. nurses, at 9d. each. . .				123	3	9
Subsistence for do. at 8d. each. .				109	10	0
Medicines.				700	0	0
CLOTHING AND ACCOUTREMENTS.						
344 sergeants at £7 9s. 2d. each	2165	3	2			
490 corporals and drummers at £4 19s 6d...	2437	16	0			
4297 privates at 2s. 6d..	9883	14	0			
5131 men at 3s. each, for great coats	769	13	0			
Allowance to colonels for 80 companies at 1s. per company.	1460	6	0			
				16715	7	2
Agency at 6d. per comp.	757	7	6			
Do. currency, 1½d. upon every pound of pay & allowances	1258	7	0			
				2015	14	6
Carried over. . . .				222333	2	4

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over				222333	2	4
56 regimental staff and bat. horses forage at 3s. each per day				3066	0	0
100 horses hired by contract for the use of regular field artillery, amount not exactly known but may be fairly calculated at 7s. p. horse p. day.				12775	0	0
Average lodging money paid for officers of the line, per annum				2000	0	0
The expense of forage for additional horses to officers going the grand rounds, amounted annually to				2866	2	6
164250 lbs. meat issued for 450 officers at the rate of 1 lb., for each, per diem, at 9d. per lb.; 3d. per lb. being paid by government, amounts to				2053	2	6
1404612 lbs. of meat issued to 5131 non-commissioned officers and privates at the rate of three-quarters of a lb. per diem, the contract price being 9d. per lb., 3d. of which paid by government amounts to . .				17557	13	0
Carriage of meat to the different barracks, the contractor engaging to deliver it at St. Helier only . .				399	0	0
468203 loaves of bread at 9d. per loaf of 4 lbs. one of which was issued to each man every fourth day, towards the price of which government paid 3d.				5852	10	9
Carried over. . . .				268902	11	1

	£	s.	d.
Brought over	268902	11	1

COALS TO 24 FIELD OFFICERS PER ANNUM.

21½ weeks, at 6½ bush. p. week 2866½
13 weeks at 4 bush. per week 1248
17½ weeks at 3½ bush. per week 1470

376 CAPTAINS AND SUBALTERNS, EACH.

31½ weeks at 3½ bush. p. week 25151
13 weeks at 2 bushels per week 9746
17½ weeks at 1¾ bush. p. week 11468

8 SERJEANT-MAJORS AND 8 QUARTER-MASTER SERJEANTS.

21½ weeks, at 3½ bush. per week 558½
13 weeks, at 2 bush. per week. 208
17 weeks, at 1¾ bush. per week 244
5115 non-commissioned officers and privates, at the like proportions as captains and subalterns for every 12 men. . . . } 53781
9 officers' mess room coals. 2277½

107770½

GUARDS MOUNTED ROUND THE ISLAND.

6 officers' guards, at 7 bush. per week, from 1 Sept. to 30th April. . . . . } 1449
56 non-commissioned officers' guards do. . . } 6762

36 | 118259½ or

3340 ch. at £2 p. ch. 6680 0 0

Carried over. . . . 275582 11 1

	£	s.	d.
Brought over	275582	11	1
Cartage of 3340 chaldrons, or 5416 Jersey loads, at 1s. 6d. per load.	406	4	0
Additional cartage for half the quantity to the different stations round the island, averaged at 6s. 6d. p. ld.	880	0	0

CANDLES FOR 24 FIELD OFFICERS.

			Moulds.
21½ wks., at	2½ lbs.	ea. p. wk.	1278 lbs.
13 do.	2	do.	624
17½ do.	1½	do.	612

376 CAPTAINS & SUBALTERNS.

21½ wks., at	1¼ lb.	ea. per wk.	10058
13 do.	1	do.	4188
17½ do.	¾	do.	4888
9 mess rooms for officers.		.	947½

	22595½ at 8d. p. lb.		
	753	3	4

CAPTAINS AND SUBALTERNS.

	Dips.
To every 12 men	22638 lbs.
6 officers' guards from 1 Sept. to 30th April	828
Do. 1st May to 31st August .	204
56 non-commissioned officers guards, from September 1, to April 30	3804
Do. 1st May to 31st August .	952

	28426 at 6d. p. lb.		
	710	13	0
Carried over. . . .	278332	11	5

	£	s.	d.
Brought over	278332	11	5
Two armed cutters under the orders of the lieutenant-governor, hired by contract in the island, said to be occasionally used to convey spies to and from the coast of France.	4265	0	0

REGISTER OFFICE FOR SHIPPING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CUSTOMS.

One register (now denominated principal officer)	400	0	0
One assistant register (now styled comptroller)	300	0	0
One examiner of exports and imports under the licenced trade during the war.	365	0	0
Two searchers	200	0	0
Two boatmen.	101	5	0
Rent, coals, and incidental expenses, about	200	0	0
Total	284163	16	5

In addition to the foregoing expenses government had to pay large sums for the hire of private buildings for military hospitals, barracks,

stables, and store houses for the royal artillery; and barracks for about one sixth part of the troops in garrison; and for bedding, furniture, and utensils for the whole; also for camp equipage, and camp allowances for a portion of the troops during the summer months. The carriage of officers' baggage, and military stores; and the transport of troops and stores to and from the island. Immense sums were also expended in the building of fortifications, independent of the annual cost for the repair of military works, barracks, magazines, and batteries; to which may be added the supply of heavy ordnance, field artillery, and arms for the infantry and island militia, with shot, shell, and all other munitions of war.

The troops stationed in the island of Jersey, often exceeded the number stated; and allowing similar establishments, and a like number of troops for the island of Guernsey, including Alderney, it is evident that Great Britain is obliged during war to embody and maintain upwards of 10,000 men, solely for the defence of

the Channel Islands, independent of a squadron of ships of war, creating altogether an expense to the country, which may be fairly estimated to exceed one million pounds sterling annually.

THE END.

PRINTED BY P. PAYN.

Edinburgh, April, 1834.

On the first of May will be published,

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One or more volumes of this collection will com-

prise Sir Walter Scott's contributions to the principal periodical works of his time. It is well known that he was at one period among the chief supports of the Edinburgh Review, and at a later one of the Quarterly, and his Essays (now first collected) from these journals and others, must ever form a most interesting feature in his literary and even in his personal career.

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